

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

June 7, 2007

1:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

Daniel S. Schmidt, Chairman
Charlene S. Brady, Vice-Chairman
Thomas H. Buestrin
Anita M. Faraone
Gregory L. Holden
Lee Holloway
William E. Johnson
Robert W. Pitts
Paul G. Vrakas

Mary A. Kacmarcik
Michael J. Miklasevich
David L. Stroik
Anselmo Villarreal

Absent:

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson	Executive Director
Robert P. Biebel	Special Projects Engineer
Michael G. Hahn	Chief Environmental Engineer
William J. Stauber	Chief Land Use Planner
Loretta Watson	Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Schmidt called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson noted for the record that Commissioners Kacmarcik, Miklasevich, Stroik, and Villarreal had asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2007

On a motion by Ms. Brady, seconded by Mr. Holden, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the meeting of February 15, 2007, were approved as published.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sewer Service Area Plan for the Village of Twin Lakes

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Stauber to review with the Committee a proposed amendment to the

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adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the Village of Twin Lakes. A copy of the preliminary draft of a SEWRPC staff memorandum dated June 2007 concerning this matter had been provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Stauber indicated that by letter dated March 21, 2007, the Village of Twin Lakes requested that the Commission amend the Village of Twin Lakes sanitary sewer service area. That area is currently documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 149, *Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the Village of Twin Lakes, Kenosha County, Wisconsin*, dated May 1987, as amended. The purpose of this amendment would be to include within the planned Twin Lakes sewer service area certain lands located immediately adjacent to, but outside, the currently adopted sewer service area.

Mr. Stauber directed the Committee's attention to Map 1 of the memorandum document, indicating that the proposed amendment involves the addition of two areas. The larger area, located adjacent to, and northwest of, the currently adopted sewer service area, encompasses 160 acres. It is currently in agricultural use and includes one existing homesite. No environmentally significant areas have been identified. The area is proposed to be developed for single-family residential use with about 210 homes. The smaller area is located along CTH D (Bassett Road), just west of 352nd Avenue in the Town of Randall. This area encompasses 4 acres and would be developed for single family residential use. Together, the proposed additions would accommodate about 500 persons upon full development. Including the proposed additions, the estimated buildout population of the Twin Lakes sewer service area would remain within the Commission's year 2035 population range.

Mr. Stauber indicated that this matter was the subject of a public hearing before the Twin Lakes Village Board on May 7, 2007. There were no objections to the proposed amendment expressed at the hearing. The Village Board approved the proposed sewer service area amendment on May 21, 2007. Mr. Stauber indicated that the Commission staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment as consistent with adopted regional plans.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously, the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated June 2007 was approved and recommended to the Commission for adoption.

Sewer Service Area Plan for the Villages of Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Stauber to review with the Committee a proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the Village of Caledonia and Village of Mt. Pleasant portions of the Racine sanitary sewer service area. A copy of the preliminary draft of a SEWRPC staff memorandum dated June 2007 concerning this matter had been provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Stauber indicated that by letters dated February 1 and March 28, 2007, the Racine Wastewater Utility, on behalf of the Villages of Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant, requested that the Commission amend the Racine and environs sanitary sewer service area tributary to the City of Racine sewage treatment facility. That area is currently documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 147 (2nd Edition), *Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the City of Racine and Environs, Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin*, dated June 2003, as amended. The purpose of this amendment would be to include within the planned Racine sewer service area certain lands located with the IH 94 corridor in the Villages of Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant, as well as to refine certain other segments of the sewer service area boundary in the Village of Caledonia.

Mr. Stauber directed the Committee's attention to Map 1 of the memorandum report that provides a graphic summary of the proposed amendment. The area along IH 94 proposed to be added by the Village of Caledonia encompasses 6.3 square miles, including 0.7 square miles of environmentally significant lands; 1.3 square miles of existing urban land—including 385 existing homes; and 4.3 square miles of developable land. The area within the IH 94 corridor proposed to be added by the Village of Mt. Pleasant encompasses 2.3 square miles, including 0.4 square miles of environmentally significant lands; 0.2 square miles of existing urban land—including 50 existing homes; and 1.7 square miles of developable land. These areas in Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant are proposed to be developed for residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational uses. Mr. Stauber indicated that the Village of Caledonia is also proposing to refine its sewer service area boundary in the area generally east of Nicholson Road. These refinements—including both additions to, and subtractions from, the sewer service area—are intended to achieve better conformity between the sewer service area and the Village land use plan and component neighborhood plans, as well as to match real property boundaries. Mr. Stauber indicated that the net effect of all of the proposed changes shown on Map 1 would be to increase the size of the greater Racine sewer service area by 8.7 square miles, or 13 percent. Including the proposed additions, the estimated buildout population of the Racine sewer service area would approximate 191,000 persons, within the Commission projection range of 149,400 to 194,800 persons for the year 2035.

Mr. Stauber noted that public hearing on the proposed amendment, sponsored by the Racine Wastewater Utility and the Commission, was held on April 24, 2007. At the hearing, a spokesperson for a group of residents with homes along Bell Road in U.S. Public Land Survey Section 19, Township 4 North, Range 22 East, spoke in opposition to having Bell Road properties added to the sewer service area and submitted a petition to this effect signed by 26 individuals who own a total of 22 parcels in that vicinity. Conversely, the owner of an existing home located at 5211 Seven Mile Road—that was proposed to be removed from the sewer service area—asked that his property be retained in the service area.

Mr. Stauber indicated that the Village of Caledonia Board met on May 21, 2007, to consider the results of the public hearing and determine whether to recommend any changes to the initially proposed sewer service area amendment based upon the public comment. The Village Board decided to recommend retaining the Bell Road area in the proposed addition to the sewer service area, indicating that Village would look into the possibility of entering into an agreement with Bell Road residents that would exempt them from the Village's mandatory sewer connection requirements. The Village Board further decided to recommend revising the initially proposed sewer service area amendment by retaining the property at 5211 Seven Mile Road, along with the property immediately to the east, within the sewer service area.

Mr. Stauber indicated that, on May 29, 2007, the Racine Wastewater Utility Board approved a resolution adopting the sewer service area amendment as originally proposed, modified, however, to retain the properties located at 5201 and 5211 Seven Mile Road in the sewer service area, consistent with the recommendations of the Village of Caledonia.

Mr. Stauber noted that this is a major amendment, long sought by the Village of Caledonia in particular. He indicated that the amendment is an outgrowth of a landmark agreement between the City of Racine and its suburbs and recent trunk sewer facility planning for the area. He indicated that the staff finds the amendment consistent with adopted regional plans and recommends approval.

A brief discussion then ensued. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Vrakas, Mr. Stauber indicated that the objections registered by the Bell Road residents related primarily to their concern that they may receive special assessments for public sanitary sewer service at a time when their private onsite sewerage disposal systems appear to be working well. In some cases, Mr. Stauber continued, Bell Road residents have recently invested in new onsite sewage disposal systems. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Buestrin, Mr.

Evenson indicated that an industrial park located west of IH 94 and south of STH 20 lies in the Town of Yorkville, which at present has its own sanitary sewer service area. The Town acquired a small treatment plant which had been built by Racine County to serve the County buildings at that location, and expanded the plant to serve urban development at the STH 20 interchange. He noted that the plan map will be amended to identify both the Yorkville and Caddy Vista sewer service areas.

Following that discussion, on a motion by Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Ms. Faraone, and carried unanimously, the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated June 2007 was approved and recommended to the Commission for adoption.

Sewer Service Area Plan for Greater Kenosha

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Stauber to review with the Committee a proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for Greater Kenosha. A copy of the preliminary draft of a SEWRPC staff memorandum dated June 2007 concerning this matter had been provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Stauber indicated that by letter dated March 20, 2007, the Kenosha Water Utility, in concurrence with requests from the Town of Bristol and the Village of Pleasant Prairie, requested that the Commission amend the Greater Kenosha sanitary sewer service area tributary to the City of Kenosha sewage treatment facility. That area is currently documented in SEWRPC report, *Amendment to the Regional Quality Management Plan-Greater Kenosha Area*, dated December 2001. The purpose of this amendment would be to include within the planned Greater Kenosha sewer service area certain lands located immediately adjacent to, but outside, the currently adopted sewer service area.

Mr. Stauber directed the Committee's attention to Map 1 of the memorandum document, indicating that the proposed amendment, as initially requested, involved the addition of an area encompassing 502 acres, located on either side of CTH Q, south of CTH C. Under existing local plans, the area would be developed for business park and related uses. The easterly portion of the proposed addition is part of the Abbot Laboratories property. The proposed addition is consistent with existing utility service agreement between the Town of Bristol and Village of Pleasant Prairie.

Mr. Stauber noted, that, following distribution of the preliminary draft memorandum to interested parties, the Village of Pleasant Prairie notified the Commission and the Kenosha Water Utility that it had inadvertently omitted a 40-acre parcel—located in the southeast quarter of U.S. Public Land Survey Section 25, Township 1 North, Range 21 East—from its initial request. It was agreed by the Commission, the Utility, and the Village to deal with this matter at the public hearing. Mr. Stauber distributed a map identifying the location of the 40-acre property to the Committee.

Mr. Stauber indicated that a public hearing on the proposed amendment, including the additional 40-acre parcel sought by the Village of Pleasant Prairie, was held on April 30, 2007. There were no objections to the proposed amendment, including the additional 40-acre parcel. Following the hearing, the Kenosha Water Utility formally approved the amendment, including the additional 40-acre parcel sought by the Village of Pleasant Prairie. Mr. Stauber indicated that the Commission staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment as consistent with adopted regional plans.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Holden, seconded by Ms. Faraone, and carried unanimously, the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated June 2007 was approved and recommended to the Commission for adoption.

Sewer Service Area Plan for the City of Elkhorn

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Stauber to review with the Committee a proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the Elkhorn area of the Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District (WalCoMet) sanitary sewer service area. A copy of the preliminary draft of a SEWRPC staff memorandum dated June 2007 concerning this matter had been provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Stauber indicated that by letter dated May 16, 2007, the Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District requested that the Commission amend the Elkhorn sanitary sewer service area. That area is currently documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 56 (2nd Edition), *Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District Walworth County, Wisconsin*, dated November 1991, as amended. The purpose of this amendment would be to include within the planned Elkhorn sewer service area certain lands located immediately adjacent to, but outside, the currently adopted sewer service area.

Mr. Stauber directed the Committee's attention to Map 1 of the memorandum report, indicating that the proposed amendment involves the addition of an area located east of STH 67, just south of the currently adopted sewer service area, in the Town of Geneva. The subject area encompasses 10 acres currently in agricultural use. No environmentally significant lands have been identified. The subject area will be developed as a church site.

Mr. Stauber indicated that a public hearing on the proposed amendment, sponsored by Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District and the Regional Planning Commission, is scheduled for June 12, 2007, and that the WalCoMet Board is scheduled to take action on the amendment following the hearing. He characterized the proposed amendment as minor in nature and consistent with adopted regional plans. He indicated that the staff recommends that the Committee forward the proposed amendment to the Commission with a recommendation for approval, subject to receipt of a report on the results of the public hearing and positive action on the amendment by the WalCoMet Board.

Following a brief discussion, on a motion by Ms. Faraone, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously, the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated June 2007 was approved and recommended to the Commission for adoption, subject to receipt of a report on the public hearing and notice of approval by the WalCoMet Board.

PROGRESS REPORT RELATIVE TO A POTENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE VILLAGE OF GENOA CITY SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREA

Mr. Evenson recalled that in November 2005, the Planning and Research Committee had referred back to the Commission staff for further study and evaluation, a proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the Village of Genoa City. This referral was occasioned by an objection registered at a public hearing on this matter by the Pell Lake Sanitary District, the District noting that it, too, would be interested in providing sewer service to the area in question. Since that time, Mr. Evenson continued, the Commission staff had been engaged in discussions with the Village of Genoa City, the Town of Bloomfield, and the Pell Lake Sanitary District in attempts to seek a mutually agreeable resolution to this issue.

As is normally the case in such matters, the Commission staff encouraged the local government parties to discuss this matter and come to agreement on a long-term boundary between the Pell Lake and Genoa City sewer service areas that could be broadly based, taking into account factors other than sanitary sewer

service. The local officials were informed that if such an agreement could be reached, the Commission staff would recommend to the Commission that that agreement be honored in all future sewer service area decision-making. Mr. Evenson reported that while there were discussions held concerning this matter, ultimately the local parties informed the Commission that they had unable to reach agreement and asked the Commission to resolve the matter.

Following past practice concerning local jurisdictional disagreements of this type, the Commission reviewed the engineering cost-effectiveness and environmental considerations attendant to serving certain disputed areas, documenting the results of its analysis in a staff memorandum. That memorandum was completed on May 29, 2007, with the basic conclusion that engineering cost-effectiveness and environmental considerations favored serving the disputed area via a connection to the Village of Genoa City sewerage system. Mr. Evenson then distributed a copy of a letter provided on May 29, 2007, to the parties in interest (copy attached to Minutes). He reviewed with the Committee members the course of action proposed by the Commission staff to bring this matter to a conclusion no later than the September 12, 2007, Commission Quarterly meeting.

Owing to the fact that there is an intergovernmental agreement presently in effect between the Village of Genoa City and the Town of Bloomfield, and owing to a need to not further delay the private sector interests concerned with some of the land that is involved in this dispute, the course of action suggests that should the Village of Genoa City fail to make a good-faith offer to serve the properties in question without annexation, such failure would be deemed an overriding consideration and would permit the Commission to set aside the findings set forth in the afore-referenced staff memorandum and attach the disputed lands not to the Village of Genoa City sewer service area, but rather to the Pell Lake Sanitary District sewer service area.

A brief discussion then ensued. During that discussion, Mr. Vrakas observed that in following the procedure set forth by the Commission staff to resolve this matter, it is still up to the Village, the Town, and the Sanitary District to determine how best to provide sewer service to the area concerned. The Village, he said, is in a position to provide sewer service to the subject area, but cannot at this time annex the property owing to a prior agreement with the Town. If the Village chooses not to provide such service, he noted, then the Town and Sanitary District would be in a position to do so. Thus, Mr. Vrakas concluded, the decision rests entirely with the local officials.

CONSIDERATION OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 50, A REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE FOR THE GREATER MILWAUKEE WATERSHEDS, CHAPTER 10

Chairman Schmidt called upon Mr. Hahn of the Commission staff to review with the members of the Committee material included in Chapter 10, "Recommended Water Quality Management Plan," of the forthcoming report. A copy of Mr. Hahn's presentation slides is attached as Exhibit A.

During Mr. Hahn's presentation, the following questions and comments were made and addressed relating to the material presented:

1. Referring to the map on page 4 of the presentation handout, Mr. Evenson observed that the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's inline storage system, or "deep tunnel", has been the subject of much discussion, with many observers concluding that the storage system is a failure. To the contrary, he said, the inline storage system is performing almost exactly as proposed, dramatically reducing pollutant loads into the harbor estuary area. The inline system, he indicated, was never intended to solve every overflow situation. Mr. Johnson observed that

one of the deep tunnel's problems is groundwater infiltration that is robbing the system of storage volume. Mr. Biebel concurred, but noted that over time the leaks become self-sealing. Mr. Johnson indicated that in his opinion, it would have been better to separate the combined sewer system in Milwaukee, proceeding with open cut construction techniques that could have been handled by Wisconsin contractors. Mr. Holloway commented that perhaps it might be better to have underground storage facilities distributed throughout the MMSD area. Mr. Hahn noted that in systems as large as the MMSD, it is usually more cost-effective to provide storage in a centralized manner.

2. Referring to a recent pollution problem caused by an inappropriate connection at Miller Park, Mr. Holloway inquired as to whose responsibility it is to ensure that such connections don't happen. In response, Mr. Evenson indicated that, unless the Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball District was exempted from local regulation in its enabling legislation, the City of Milwaukee building inspection personnel would have been responsible for the Miller Park plumbing system approval.
3. Referring to water quality goals identified on page 20 of the presentation materials, Mr. Vrakas inquired as to how the percentage compliance factors were established. In response, Mr. Hahn indicated that in the judgment of the Advisory Committee, an 85 percent compliance rate has been deemed to meet water quality objectives and standards. Mr. Evenson noted that Federal law language of "fishable and swimmable waters" did not come with specific metrics attached. Accordingly, planning agencies need to identify what appears to be an acceptable level of compliance.
4. Mr. Pitts indicated that he very much appreciated the material presented. He asked if the Planning and Research Committee becomes involved in public meetings on this material. In response, Mr. Evenson indicated that most of the work in this respect is accomplished by the Commission's Advisory Committee created some years ago, but that individual Commissioners are always invited to attend meetings at which plan elements are being publicly reviewed. Moreover, he said, Commissioners will get a summary of the results of those meetings prior to seeking any formal plan adoption. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Holden, Mr. Schmidt, who Chairs the Advisory Committee in this case, indicated that there were from 35 to 40 members on the Advisory Committee and that there has been very good attendance at the Committee meetings over a three-year period.

Following Mr. Hahn's presentation and the ensuing discussion, on a motion by Ms. Faraone, seconded by Mr. Holden, and carried unanimously, Chapter 10, "Recommended Water Quality Management Plan," of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 50 was approved for publication.

CONSIDERATION OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 52, A REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, CHAPTER 6

Chairman Schmidt noted that the Committee continues to review materials being developed to document the forthcoming regional water supply plan. He then called upon Mr. Robert P. Biebel of the Commission staff to review with the members of the Committee material included in Chapter 6, "A Summary of Water Supply Law As Applied to Southeastern Wisconsin," of the forthcoming planning report. Mr. Biebel then delivered a presentation attendant to that chapter. A copy of Mr. Biebel's presentation slides is attached as Exhibit B.

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

1. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Holloway relative to the subcontinental divide and the concepts of straddling communities and straddling counties relative to that divide, Mr. Biebel indicated that the Commission's Advisory Committee has already determined that any Lake Michigan water that may be taken west across the subcontinental divide will have to be combined with a commitment to return the flow to the Lake Michigan basin. This would be true whether such a diversion proposal involves a straddling community, such as the City of New Berlin, or a non-straddling community in a straddling county, such as the City of Waukesha. In response to a follow up question by Mr. Holden, Mr. Biebel indicated that because of sewer infiltration and stormwater inflow, there typically is a net gain to the Lake Michigan basin of water when Lake Michigan water is taken across the subcontinental divide for water supply purposes and then returned to Lake Michigan through sewerage systems.
2. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Holloway, Mr. Biebel indicated that the City of Waukesha, while clearly expressing a preference for Lake Michigan water supply, continues to closely examine a number of alternatives, including treatment to reduce the radium concentration from deep well water and use of the shallow aquifer for partial supply.
3. Mr. Holloway observed that one of the problems faced in Waukesha is the lack of replenishment to any significant degree of the deep aquifer. Mr. Biebel agreed, observing, however, that about one-half of the decline in the deep aquifer may be attributed to well water used in Milwaukee County during the latter part of the 19th century and the first three-fourths of the 20th century. Mr. Holloway acknowledged that fact, noting that all of us in southeastern Wisconsin are in this situation together and that we need to work together to find cooperative, sensible solutions to problems.

At the end of the discussion, on a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Holden, and carried unanimously, Chapter 6, "A Summary of Water Supply Law As Applied to Southeastern Wisconsin," of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 52 was approved for publication.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO INCLUDING THE KENOSHA-RACINE-MILWAUKEE COMMUTER RAIL LINE IN THE ADOPTED REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Evenson noted that the Committee had been provided in advance of the meeting a draft Commission resolution relative to amendment of the 2035 regional transportation system plan (copy attached to Official Minutes). He then distributed copies of Map 93, page 373 of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 49, *A Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035*. He also distributed a letter dated March 15, 2007, from the Chair of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority. (Copy attached to Official Minutes). He reviewed these materials with the Committee, calling attention to the potential commuter rail lines identified on the map and in particular to the note on the map that indicates that such commuter rail services would be added to the regional plan by the Commission at such time as an appropriate sponsor completes the requisite studies and submits a formal plan amendment request. The letter from RTA Board Chair Ostby, he said, fulfills that requirement. He then suggested that the Committee recommend to the full Commission at the forthcoming Annual meeting that the regional transportation plan be formally amended with respect to the commuter rail line between Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee (KRM). He further indicated that the Commission staff would provide a complete

briefing on the proposed commuter rail service at the Annual Commission meeting on June 20th in West Bend.

A discussion then ensued. Mr. Holloway indicated that while he has no particular problem with ultimately providing commuter rail service on the KRM route, securing a dedicated funding source for that transit service alone makes no sense at a time when the much larger and much more serious local funding problem for the Milwaukee area bus system is not being addressed. Mr. Holloway indicated that he has met with key local elected officials in Kenosha and Racine and understands that nearly all of them support securing a dedicated non-property tax local funding source for bus mass transit systems in the three-county area. The problem, he said, is that neither the Milwaukee County Executive nor the Mayor of Milwaukee are ready to support a legislative effort that would secure a local funding source, possibly a sales tax that would be large enough to meet bus transit system funding needs. In many quarters, Mr. Holloway continued, the KRM initiative all by itself is viewed as taking care of those in society who are capable of taking care of themselves, while leaving poor people to struggle with a declining bus transit system that in many cases is their lifeline to the world. Mr. Holloway also noted that the great majority of the dollars that would be used to fund the KRM service would be raised in Milwaukee County but spent in Kenosha and Racine Counties. Mr. Evenson noted that the RTA Board had tried very hard to bring both KRM funding and bus transit system funding together in a single legislative initiative. Lacking agreement among key Milwaukee area officials, however, doomed such an initiative at this time. Accordingly, he said, the RTA Board determined to push forward with the KRM initiative alone in order to meet Federal funding deadlines, while pledging to work over the next 12 to 18 months to find local agreement on funding for the bus transit systems. Mr. Pitts indicated that while he fully understood the points that Mr. Holloway was making, and that while he agreed that finding a solution to a dedicated funding source for local bus transit systems was a critical need, nevertheless, it was also important to move the KRM project along in hopes that important Federal funding can be secured.

Mr. Vrakas inquired as to the status of other potential commuter rail service lines identified on the map distributed to the Committee. Mr. Evenson indicated that all those other lines represent potential commuter rail transit services, but that each one of them would have to go through the kind of corridor study just now finishing up on the KRM line. He noted, for example, that the RTA Board recently positively responded to a resolution from the City of Milwaukee to explore commuter rail service in the 30th Street Corridor. Mr. Holloway indicated that, he, too, would support an examination of the potential for service on that line. Mr. Vrakas indicated that this Region has been talking long enough about how to improve its mass transit systems and that progress needs to be made soon. Mr. Johnson indicated that he, too, is very concerned over the lack of attention given to the transportation needs for those who live in Milwaukee's central city. If the KRM proposal is to move forward at this time, he said, there would have to be a strong commitment to intensively work to address the funding problems of bus transit systems. Mr. Evenson indicated that, from the staff's perspective, the business communities in Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha have strongly committed to addressing all transit needs. The problem today, he said, lies largely in the Region's political community. Mr. Holloway made the point that if it were possible to find a non-property tax source for the Milwaukee transit system, Milwaukee County's property taxes would be "rolled back" to a level of about 10 years ago.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Holloway indicated that he could be supportive of moving the KRM project along and seek Federal funds provided that the Commission resolution would appropriately recognize the compelling need to find a dedicated non-property tax source of funding for bus mass transit systems and further, that the Commission go on record strongly encouraging the business and political leadership in the area to address this important problem during the time that the Federal government is considering the funding request for the KRM service. Mr. Evenson indicated that the draft resolution could readily be so amended and that, indeed, the Commission's regional transportation plan adopted in

June 2006 explicitly calls for securing a dedicated non-property tax source of revenue for all transit services.

Following that discussion, on a motion by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Mr. Holloway, and carried unanimously, the subject draft resolution was recommended to the Commission for approval, subject to the addition of language to address the concerns raised by Mr. Holloway.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson reported that there were no announcements or correspondence to be brought to the attention of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Faraone, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

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