

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 20, 2007

2:00 p.m.

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

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

Thomas H. Buestrin, Chairman
William R. Drew,
James T. Dwyer
Adelene Greene
Michael J. Miklasevich
Allen L. Morrison (Alternate)
Daniel S. Schmidt
David L. Stroik
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Richard A. Hansen, Vice-Chairman

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 Hansen had asked to be excused. Mr. Buestrin noted that he had asked Mr. Morrison to attend the meeting as an alternate member of the Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 29, 2007, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Miklasevich, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on November 29, 2007, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. STROIK REPORTING

(Meeting of December 20, 2007)

Mr. Stroik 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 2007 Nos. 24 and 25, extending over the period November 12, 2007, to December 9, 2007.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending December 9, 2007. With about 95 percent of the year completed, the projection indicated a year end surplus of about \$197,000, exclusive of interest and miscellaneous income.
3. Received a report that the Commission staff continues to evaluate options with respect to the acquisition of a digital press for the print shop operations. On the basis of that report, the Committee authorized the Commission staff to encumber up to \$200,000 in 2007 funds for the purpose of acquiring early in 2008 print shop equipment.

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

REPORT ON CONTRACTS

Mr. Evenson reported there were no contracts and agreements to be reviewed.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO 2007-2010 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Evenson noted that the Committee members had been provided in advance of the meeting copies of Resolution 2007-24 which, if approved, would amend the 2007-2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program. He asked that the Committee consider Resolution 2007-24, attached to which are exhibits attendant to a total of 13 transportation projects, 12 of which were submitted by Ozaukee County and one of which was submitted by the Village of Pleasant Prairie in Kenosha County. The projects all deal with transit services and were found to be consistent with the adopted regional transportation plan. Mr. Evenson noted that the projects had been approved by postcard ballot of the Commission's Advisory Committees on Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Milwaukee and Kenosha Urbanized Areas, respectively.

Following a brief discussion relative to the process being followed concerning an additional amendment to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program being sought by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation attendant to the proposed reconstruction of the CTH P interchange with IH 94 in Waukesha County, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Wirth, and carried unanimously, Resolution 2007-24 was approved (copy attached to Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF DISSOLUTION OF SELECTED ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Mr. Evenson asked that the Committee consider the dissolution of three Commission advisory committees that have fully responded to their charges. The first is the Technical Advisory Committee on Regional Groundwater Resources. That Committee provided significant guidance to Commission efforts with respect to the conduct of basic inventories attendant to groundwater and the development of the regional groundwater simulation models now being used in the regional water supply planning program. Many of the members of the Groundwater Resources Committee now serve on the Commission's Advisory Committee on Regional Water Supply Planning. In effect, Mr. Evenson said, the work of the Groundwater Resources Committee has been transferred to the broader Advisory Committee on Regional Water Supply Planning.

The second committee proposed for dissolution is the Pike River Watershed Committee. Once very active throughout the 1980's and into the early 1990's, the Pike River Watershed Committee no longer has a significant reason for being and should be removed from the Commission's list of advisory committees. Should some day it become desirable to prepare a comprehensive update to the Pike River Watershed plan, that work could be undertaken by a new advisory committee.

The third committee proposed for dissolution recently completed its work. That committee is the Advisory Committee on Regional Telecommunications Planning. Mr. Evenson indicated that he would shortly distribute the last major publication of the Commission's under the telecommunications study and would express the appreciation of the Commission to all of the members of that Committee for their diligence in completing the tasks assigned to them.

Following a brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Miklasevich, and carried unanimously, the Regional Groundwater Resources Committee, the Pike River Watershed Committee, and the Regional Telecommunications Planning Committee were formally dissolved.

WORK PROGRAM REPORTS

Mr. Evenson reported that alternative plan evaluation work attendant to the water supply study was well underway. He recalled that there are four major regional water supply alternatives being evaluated, all of which involve to one degree or another water conservation efforts, groundwater recharge area protection, groundwater consumption, surface water infiltration enhancement, and expanded use of Lake Michigan as a water supply source. The Commission's advisory committee guiding this study recently met to review the initial findings attendant to the first of the four alternatives. The advisory committee is scheduled to next meet in February 2008 where it is hoped that the remaining evaluations will be presented and reviewed. The second newsletter relative to the water supply study is presently in production and will be distributed shortly after the first of the year. It is hoped by late spring to have all of the technical work completed and the plan findings and tentative recommendations ready for extensive public review.

Mr. Evenson also reported that staff meetings were recently held relative to efforts to update both the Racine and Waukesha County jurisdictional highway system plans. He recalled that the Washington County jurisdictional highway system plan update has been presented to that County's advisory committee, with work in that County to be completed early next year. Staff work is now underway to begin the process in both Racine and Waukesha Counties. Later in 2008 similar work will begin in the remaining four counties in the Region.

Finally, Mr. Evenson reported that at a meeting held earlier in the week, the governing board of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority had asked the Commission staff to continue to support the RTA in two important respects. First, the RTA desires preparation early in the next year of its report to the State Legislature and to the Governor. The RTA Board hopes to begin its review of that draft report at its March 2008 meeting. Secondly, the RTA Board desires that the Commission staff continue to work with the intergovernmental partnership created by the Commission, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the Counties and Cities of Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha, to improve the request to the Federal Transit Administration relative to the potential initiation of commuter rail service in the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee corridor. The RTA is not funding that work, but desires that all parties concerned be in a position to resubmit an application to the FTA, probably in mid-2009, for permission to enter into preliminary engineering. The key to moving the project ahead, Mr. Evenson said, was securing State legislation for the RTA Board to sponsor the commuter rail service and to identify a permanent source of local funding for the project.

A brief discussion ensued relative to the RTA related work. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Drew, Mr. Evenson indicated that the report to be drafted for the RTA Board would seek to respond to that Board's legislative charge. That charge, he said, requires that the Board identify a permanent regional funding source to provide the local funds necessary for public bus and commuter rail systems; a recommendation as to whether or not the RTA Board should be empowered to directly operate transit services; a proposal that would distribute any permanent regional funding among the mass transit operators in the three-county region; proposals that would coordinate expanded mass transit, commuter rail, and passenger rail in the three-county region; whether or not bonding authority for transit services should be given to the Authority; and finally, a recommendation as to whether the Authority should continue in existence after September 30, 2009, the sunset date placed in the original enabling legislation. This report, Mr. Evenson said, is due by November 15, 2008.

In response to an additional question by Mr. Drew, Mr. Evenson indicated that the rail funding initiative recently announced in Washington, DC, by Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary Frank J. Busalacchi, would not directly relate to the KRM proposal. Rather, he said, as the Commission staff understands the recent announcement, the national committee that is being chaired by Secretary Busalacchi is focusing its initiative on intercity rail passenger service. The State of Wisconsin initiative to restore intercity passenger rail service between Milwaukee and Madison and between Madison and the Twin Cities, among other such proposals, would be the direct beneficiaries of any Federally funded intercity rail service enhancements. By contrast, Mr. Evenson concluded, the KRM service is more local in nature since it provides for daily commuting over relatively shorter distances.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson reported that he had received a letter from the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Counties Association, Mark D. O'Connell, informing the Commission and its sister agencies throughout the State that the WCA had made arrangements for regional planning commissions to receive both The Wheeler Report and WisPolitics in electronic format. Mr. O'Connell, he said, views regional planning commissions as members of the county family, and his initiatives toward helping the regional planning commissions in this respect are very much appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

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Attachments