

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 24, 2008

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
Allen L. Morrison (Alternate)
Daniel S. Schmidt
David L. Stroik
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Richard A. Hansen, Vice-Chairman
Michael J. Miklasevich

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson
Kenneth R. Yunker
Loretta Watson

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Buestrin called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson noted for the record that Commissioners Hansen and Miklasevich 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 MARCH 20, 2008, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on March 20, 2008, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. STROIK REPORTING
(Meeting of April 24, 2008)

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 three financial reporting periods: Year 2008 Nos. 6, 7 and 8, extending over the period March 3, 2008, to April 13, 2008.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending April 13, 2008. With about 30 percent of the year completed, the projections indicated a year end surplus of about \$250,000, a figure that is expected to decline as the year goes on and as staff vacancies are filled.
3. Authorized the Commission's Business Manager to place a total of \$385,000 with the bond trustee for the Rockwood Drive building. These funds will redeem bonds that expire in the years 2009, 2010, and 2011.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Ms. Greene, 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 and agreements prior to the meeting. Mr. Evenson then briefly reviewed the two contracts reported on the table, noting that the first contract was with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources which has asked the Commission staff to map in detail potential ephemeral pond wetlands in the four counties in the Region abutting Lake Michigan. The second contract, he said, is with Kenosha County and involves undertaking the development of flood profiles along previously unstudied streams.

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

RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT WITH INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Buestrin recalled that at the previous Executive Committee meeting, Kenneth R. Yunker had been selected as the Commission's new Executive Director to succeed Mr. Evenson at the end of this calendar year. As directed by the Executive Committee, he said, he, Mr. Drew, and Mr. Stroik had met with Mr. Yunker to negotiate an appropriate contract. Mr. Buestrin then briefed the Committee members on the terms of the contract, noting that the contract had been drafted by the Commission's counsel, James R. Sommers, and closely followed the terms of similar contracts with the Commission's current and previous Executive Directors.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Ms. Greene, seconded by Mr. Wirth, and carried unanimously to ratify the contract agreement with Mr. Yunker and to authorize the Commission Chairman and Secretary to execute the agreement on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Buestrin then called Mr. Yunker into the meeting and on behalf of the entire Commission, congratulated him on his selection. Mr. Buestrin indicated that Mr. Yunker would try to attend Commission committee meetings throughout the remainder of this year as he prepares to take over as Executive Director on January 1, 2009.

A brief discussion then ensued relative to an appearance that Messrs. Evenson and Yunker had recently before the Editorial Board of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Mr. Yunker noted that much of the discussion of that meeting involved transit issues. Mr. Evenson indicated that the Editorial Board indicated that they wanted to meet with the Commission staff from time to time as the Commission's work program progresses.

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 2008-04 which, if approved, would amend the 2007-2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program. He asked that the Committee consider Resolution 2008-04, attached to which are exhibits attendant to a total of ten transportation projects. With the exception of the project on Exhibit A that involves bridge rehabilitation, the remaining projects all involve transit activities being funded by a new Federal Transit Administration program entitled "New Freedom". Such transit funds, Mr. Evenson indicated, are intended to enhance the provision of transit services to disabled individuals.

Following a brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Drew, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, Resolution 2008-04 was approved (copy attached to Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTING GEODETIC ENGINEER

Mr. Evenson recalled that about one year ago, the Commission authorized the creation of a technical advisory committee to critically review and evaluate the status and continued utility of the Commission's horizontal and vertical survey control network and to recommend any needed changes in that network should such changes be found desirable. He reported that the technical advisory committee had recently concluded its deliberations on this matter, working with Kurt W. Bauer, the Commission's Executive Director Emeritus, and Earl F. Burkholder, a consulting geodetic engineer retained to provide expertise in this field. A copy of the final draft of SEWRPC Technical Report No. 45, *Technical Review and Reevaluation of Regional Control Survey Program in Southeastern Wisconsin*, was provided to all members of the Committee. Mr. Evenson then called attention to the statement of the Executive Director included in that final draft report and in particular to the findings and recommendations of the Committee summarized in that statement. Essentially, he said, the Committee concluded that the Commission should continue to rely upon the North American Datum of 1927 and the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 as the basis for the horizontal and vertical survey control network in the Region, but that the Commission should sponsor the development of a new methodology to enable bidirectional transformation of State Plane Coordinates between the 1927 datum and the 2007 version of a newer Federal datum with respect to horizontal control, and elevations between the 1929 datum and the 2007 version of a newer Federal datum with respect to vertical control. Mr. Evenson concluded his remarks by noting that he is proposing that these recommendations be accepted and that the consulting geodetic engineer be engaged during the summers of 2008 and 2009 to undertake these additional work tasks. Mr. Evenson indicated that a budget of \$25,000 in each of these two calendar years should be sufficient for this work, with the project being funded under the Commission's continuing regional land use/transportation study.

Following a brief discussion that focused on the usefulness and value of the U.S. Public Land Survey system and a comment by Mr. Dwyer pointing out inconsistent references to the two datums between items one and four on page 2 of the Statement, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Drew, and carried unanimously, the Commission Chairman was authorized to take appropriate steps to further engage the consulting geodetic engineer in the manner proposed.

WORK PROGRAM REPORTS

Mr. Evenson indicated that he had no work program reports at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson reported that earlier this week, the Commission staff had participated in a multi-state conference held at a campus of Northern Illinois University entitled, "Linking Watersheds Conference 2008: Connecting the Green Dots". The conference was sponsored by Chicago Wilderness and Fox River Ecosystem Partnership. Commission staff members Jeffrey A. Thornton and Thomas Slawski made presentations relative to Commission watershed planning work. Mr. Evenson indicated that, increasingly, the Commission staff works with its counterparts in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan on these types of events, thereby serving to exchange information among the many agencies and organizations which serve the metropolitan area at the southern end of Lake Michigan. Mr. Evenson indicated that he personally regularly meets with his counterparts at regional planning agencies in this area, exchanging ideas and considering joint activities.

Mr. Evenson then reminded the Commissioners that this coming Monday, April 28, 2008, the Commission is co-sponsoring with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the 5th Annual Watershed Planning Conference. All Commissioners, he said, are encouraged to attend that conference should their schedules permit.

Mr. Evenson then noted that on Friday, April 4, 2008, Commissioner Wirth, together with the Commission's Executive Director Emeritus Kurt W. Bauer, and the Commission's incoming Executive Director, Kenneth Yunker, participated in an awards event at Kohler sponsored by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin. During that event, the Commission was honored as a winner in the surveying and mapping technology category, with its long-term control survey and mapping project being declared as a "Wonder of Wisconsin Engineering". The Commission, he said, should take pride in receiving this award.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

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Attachments