

**MINUTES**

**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Thursday, January 22, 2009

2:00 p.m.

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

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

David L. Stroik, Chairman  
Thomas H. Buestrin  
William R. Drew  
James T. Dwyer  
Adelene Greene  
Daniel S. Schmidt  
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

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

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker  
Loretta Watson

Executive Director  
Executive Secretary

**ROLL CALL**

Chairman Stroik called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Yunker noted for the record that Commissioners Hansen, Miklasevich, and Russell had asked to be excused.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2008, MEETING**

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MS. GREENE REPORTING**

(Meeting of January 22, 2009)

Ms. Greene 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 four financial reporting periods: Year 2008 Nos. 24, 25, 26, and Year 2009 No. 1, extending over the period November 11, 2008, to January 4, 2009.

2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending January 4, 2009.
3. Received a report on snow removal at the Commission offices and approved a staff recommendation that the Commission acquire a snowblower to clean walks and portions of the parking area around Commission staff vehicles.

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

### **REPORT ON CONTRACTS**

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Yunker 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. Yunker then briefly reviewed the eight contracts reported in the table, noting that two of contracts deal with County Surveyor activities in Walworth and Waukesha Counties; one involves continuing to administer Kenosha County's Housing Authority activities; one involves acquiring updated digital topographic mapping in the area of the Marquette Interchange now that Interchange reconstruction is completed; two are contracts with Walworth County to update the County Zoning and Cadastral Maps; one is to conduct an update of the studies related to the KRM commuter rail to permit the project to apply for a Federal discretionary grant in the summer of 2009; and one would provide coordinates and elevations at 73 survey stations to make available alternative survey datum data throughout the Region.

A brief discussion then ensued. In response to a question by Mr. Wirth, Mr. Yunker responded that a Secretary's Note will be added to the Minutes to explain the problem of multiple datums and the approach the Commission is taking to meet the needs of the Commission, local governments in the Region, State and Federal governments, and the private sector and citizens of the Region.

[Secretary's Note:

The Commission, in its surveying and mapping operations, has chosen to continue to use the North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27), even though some Federal agencies and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation have shifted to use of the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). This question was addressed in depth by the Commission's Technical Advisory Committee for the Review and Reevaluation of the Regional Control Survey Program. That Committee was comprised of 17 experienced engineers and surveyors, in public and private practice, including a representative of the National Geodetic Survey and the Chief Geodetic Survey Engineer of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

The Committee's recommendations are set forth in SEWRPC Technical Report No. 45, dated March 2008, which contains the following recommendation to the Commission: "The Commission, in cooperation with its constituent counties, should continue the established policy of basing the horizontal survey control network on the North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) and the vertical network on the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29). Given the investment in existing horizontal and vertical control databases, the proven quality of those control values, and continued reliance on those databases by spatial data users within the seven-county Region, the benefits of migrating from NAD 27 and NGVD 29 to the newer North American Datum of 1983 (07), and to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (2007) do not justify the

costs of transferring the huge volume of spatial data records – both hardcopy and digital.”

The report recognizes that some governmental agencies in response to Federal direction, must utilize the North American Datum of 1983. For this reason, the Commission has undertaken the development of bi-directional transformation equations that will permit the conversion of data on NAD 27 to NAD 83 (07) and from NAD 83 (07) to NAD 27. The equations will also permit the conversion of data between NGVD 29 and NAVD 88. It should be noted in this respect, that the Federal government has already created three versions of the 1983 datum: NAD 83, NAD 83 (91), and NAD 83 (07). An additional version of the 83 datum is currently under consideration by the Federal government. Any surveyor within the Region who does not, for whatever reason, see fit to follow the Commission’s recommended policy, will be able to convert control survey data between NAD 27 and NAD 83 (07), and between NGVD 29 and NAVD 88, using the equations being developed by the Commission. It should be noted, however, that these equations will not apply to NAD 83 or NAD 83 (91) or to any future newer horizontal datums that the Federal government may see fit to create.

It should also be noted, that at least five of the seven counties constituting the Southeastern Wisconsin Region have created automated parcel-based land information systems, the spatial reference for these systems being based upon NAD 27. Literally five huge data banks have been created based upon the NAD 27 datum. Moreover, a large number of municipalities have also created computerized parcel-based land information systems and public works management systems within the Region based upon the NAD 27 datum. The conversion of these data banks to a different datum such as NAD 83 (07) would entail huge costs without compensating benefits.]

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

### **CONSIDERATION OF ENDORSEMENT OF WINGSPREAD REGIONAL ACCORD**

Mr. Yunker noted that in November of 2008, a number of Commissioners and senior staff from the Regional Planning Commission met with our counterparts from the Chicago, northwestern Indiana, and southwestern Michigan areas at the Wingspread Conference Center in Racine, Wisconsin. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the interrelationship of our areas and to identify ways we could work together in our planning programs to enhance each of our areas and the broader multi-state region. About seven years ago, a similar meeting was held and a similar accord was adopted by each of these planning bodies. The proposed Wingspread Regional Accord would commit our agencies to continue to work together sharing data, linking plans, and developing a more interconnected region, including transportation systems and eco-systems. The intent is to have the governing bodies of each of our agencies consider and adopt this Wingspread Regional Accord. Mr. Schmidt noted that in addition to the agreement to work together, some specific actions were identified and agreed to at the Wingspread meeting. He noted that one of these involved achieving planned greenway and bicycle/pedestrian trail connectivity across the multi-state region. Mr. Stroik suggested that perhaps the Accord should also identify these specific actions that the agencies would be working on over the next year so that there could be better measurement of progress of working together.

Following a brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, the Committee agreed that the Accord should be expanded to list the specific actions, including greenway and trail connection planning that should be addressed by the agencies over the next year.

[Secretary's Note: The Commission staff contacted the directors of all counterpart agencies. Their response was that the Accord should not be changed, but should remain broad so it could address not just the work efforts identified at the conference in late 2008, but additional work efforts identified in coming years. They did agree that the specific work action items identified at the conference should be documented so that progress in achieving the proposed work can be explicitly measured.]

## **WORK PROGRAM REPORTS**

Mr. Yunker reported that public informational meetings are being held on the preliminary water supply plan along with other meetings in each county informing local elected officials of the plan. The comments received on the preliminary plan will be considered by the Water Supply Plan Advisory Committee and will be used to shape a final recommendation plan early this year which may be expected to be considered by the Commission at their June meeting.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Wirth, Mr. Yunker responded that the water supply public meetings were announced in newspapers throughout the Region, including the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the Waukesha Freeman, Kenosha News, Racine Journal Times, Ozaukee County News Graphic, Community Shoppers in Walworth County, West Bend Daily News, and Oconomowoc Enterprise.

[Secretary's Note: In addition, notices of public meetings appeared in a number of minority community newspapers, including the Milwaukee Times, the Racine Insider News, El Conquistador, and Fronteras de la Noticia.]

Mr. Yunker noted that the Commission also is completing work on a short-range transit plan for Milwaukee County identifying the potential transit improvements Milwaukee County should consider if dedicated funding is made available to preserve, improve, and expand public transit in the next year. Public informational meetings are being held during this week in January 2009.

Mr. Yunker noted that the Commission staff as well is working with the Regional Transit Authority as their staff providing presentations to local governments and to others, including the Coalition for Advancing Transit, which is attempting to secure implementation of the RTA's recommendations including achieving dedicated funding for public transit in Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties.

Mr. Yunker noted that the Commission staff is nearing completion of its work assisting counties and communities in preparing their needed comprehensive plans. Comprehensive plans for Ozaukee and Washington Counties are now completed and plans for Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth Counties will be completed in 2009, along with the individual community plans that the Commission staff will prepare for selected communities.

Mr. Yunker noted that the regional housing study is expected to be initiated shortly. The first step for the Advisory Committee will be to consider a scope of work for the study, which is expected to occur in the next month.

Mr. Yunker noted that the Commission's Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) has recommended that the Commission conduct a socio-economic impact analysis on each plan that is prepared by the Commission. In discussion with the EJTF, the Commission staff has suggested that this analysis be first conducted on the regional land use plan upon which all other Commission regional plans are based. The EJTF has further recommended that

the Commission have this effort conducted by an independent consultant firm. A brief discussion ensued directing the Commission staff to prepare a Request for Qualifications/Proposals for this effort. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Drew, Mr. Yunker stated that the Commission budget does not include any funding for such studies.

Mr. Yunker then stated that in discussions with the Commission Chairman, it was agreed that beginning in February 2009, the work program report would identify ten key work program elements, indicate the goals for each element for the calendar year, and provide a monthly report on progress in achieving those goals.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Yunker reported that he had contacts from three local governments asking if the Commission staff would be putting together a list of stimulus projects for the Region. A brief discussion ensued. Messrs. Schmidt and Dwyer noted that the Governor had put together a list along with many local governments. Mr. Yunker noted as well that each transit operator in the Region had put together a list as well. He stated that the U.S. Department of Transportation and Wisconsin Department of Transportation staffs have been in contact with the Commission as there will be a need to quickly move to amend the Region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) when the stimulus package moves forward. Mr. Dwyer stated that the role of the Commission should be to be ready to promptly amend the TIP to permit State and local transportation projects to be eligible for stimulus funding and be implemented in a timely manner. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Yunker noted that there may be a need to have a special Executive Committee meeting to accomplish the prompt amendment of the Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Wirth suggested that the Commission staff investigate whether it would be possible for the Executive Committee to meet by a teleconference.

Mr. Stroik asked whether any Executive Committee members would like to suggest items to appear on next month's Executive Committee agenda. He indicated that he would ask that this suggestion of future agenda items appear on every agenda of the Executive Committee. He also noted that in the past year, some members of the Commission have suggested that the Commission examine its Committee structure and meetings, and consider a possible strategic planning retreat. He asked that the next Executive Committee agenda include an agenda item to permit this discussion.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker  
Deputy Secretary

KRY/lw  
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Attachments