

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

QUARTERLY MEETING

March 2, 2005

3:00 p.m.

Kenosha County Board Room
Kenosha County Administration Building
1010 56th Street
Kenosha, Wisconsin

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

Thomas H. Buestrin, Chairman
Robert A. Brooks
Leon T. Dreger
Kenneth C. Herro
Leonard R. Johnson
Michael J. Miklasevich
Allen L. Morrison
James E. Moyer
Adelene Robinson
Daniel S. Schmidt
Linda J. Seemeyer
David L. Stroik
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

William R. Drew, Vice-Chairman
Anthony F. Balestrieri
Richard A. Hansen
Gregory L. Holden
Lee Holloway
Kenneth F. Miller
Anselmo Villarreal
Paul G. Vrakas

Absent:

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson
Kenneth R. Yunker
Loretta Watson

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Executive Secretary

Guests:

Donna L. Brown
Allan Kehl
William Kranz
Dwight E. McComb,

George E. Melcher
Karyn Rotker
Gretchen Schuldt

Systems Planning Manager, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
County Executive, Kenosha County
Friends of St. Francis Greenspace
Planning and Program Development Engineer, Federal Highway
Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation
Director, Planning and Development, Kenosha County
ACLU – Wisconsin
Citizens Allied for Sane Highways

WELCOME

Chairman Buestrin recognized Mr. Allan Kehl for opening remarks. As County Executive of Kenosha County, Mr. Kehl welcomed the Commissioners to Kenosha County. The work of the Commission, he said, is very much appreciated in Kenosha County, noting that there were many things Kenosha County could not do without the leadership of SEWRPC and its staff. He further noted the importance of SEWRPC staff support to Kenosha County communities. He wished the Commission well in their meeting. Mr. Buestrin thanked Mr. Kehl for his remarks.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Buestrin called the 208th meeting of the Commission to order at 3:10 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson indicated for the record that Commissioners Balestrieri, Drew, Hansen, Holden, Holloway, Miller, Villarreal, and Vrakas had asked to be excused.

INTRODUCTION AND SEATING OF NEW COMMISSIONER

Chairman Buestrin noted that Kenosha County had made a new appointment to the Commission and that the seating of that new Commissioner was in order at this meeting. He then recognized Ms. Adelene Robinson and asked her to introduce the newest Kenosha County Commissioner.

Ms. Robinson said that it was her pleasure to introduce Mr. Leonard R. Johnson who succeeds Commissioner Thomas J. Gorlinski. Ms. Robinson indicated that Mr. Johnson is a retired school teacher of the Kenosha Unified School District for 35 years. She noted that in addition to serving on the Housing Authority Board for 15 years, and the Kenosha County Board for 20 years, Mr. Johnson was the County Board Chairman from 1992 to 1994. During his time on the Kenosha County Board, Mr. Johnson has served on almost every County Board Committee, chairing the Administration, Finance, UW-Extension, and Land Conservation Committees. Ms. Robinson stated that Mr. Johnson brings a broad range of expertise, knowledge, and experience to the Commission.

In brief comments, Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. Robinson for the kind introduction and indicated that he very much looked forward to serving on the Commission, noting he had worked with the Commission in the land conservation area and had a great deal of respect for the Commission and the services it provides.

It was then moved by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Moyer, and carried unanimously to formally seat Mr. Johnson, representing Kenosha County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2004, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Brooks, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Annual Meeting of December 1, 2004, were approved as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Commission Treasurer, Richard A. Hansen, Chairman Buestrin asked Mr. Evenson to present the Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Evenson noted that a copy of the report had been placed on the desk of all Commissioners at this meeting. In commenting on the report he called attention to the following items:

1. Based upon disbursements through February 6, 2005, it is projected that total disbursements for the year will approximate \$6.9 million. Revenues are projected at \$7.8 million.
2. The total amount of funds held by the Commission in the various operating, liability, and reserve accounts approximates \$3.2 million. The various accounts are identified on the second page of the report.
3. As of February 6, 2005, the Commission had in investments and cash on hand about \$4.3 million. About \$2.9 million are invested in the State of Wisconsin Local Government Pooled Fund. As of February 6, 2005, that fund was yielding 2.11 percent interest. Other funds are held in banks throughout the Region and in savings and checking accounts at the Johnson Bank.

There being no discussion, on a motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Miklasevich, and carried unanimously, the Treasurer's Report for the period ending February 6, 2005, was approved subject to audit (copy attached to Official Minutes).

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Research Committee

Noting that the Planning and Research Committee had met twice since the Commission Quarterly meeting on December 1, 2004, Chairman Schmidt reported the following items:

On January 20, 2005, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved for publication Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 48, A Regional Land Use Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035. These approvals followed staff briefings on the substantive content of each chapter. The three chapters deal with introductory material, existing land use development and trends in the Region, and a review of the status of implementation of the presently adopted 2020 regional land use plan. The Commission's Advisory Committee guiding this study is making good progress, with technical work to be completed this coming spring.
2. Reviewed and approved for publication Chapters 1 through 5 and Chapter 7 of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 49, A Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035. Again, these approvals followed staff briefings on the substantive content of each chapter. The chapters deal with a number of matters, including a review of the presently adopted regional transportation plan, an inventory of transportation facilities and services, a report on travel habits and patterns, and transportation development objectives, principles, and standards. The Commission's Advisory Committee guiding this study is also making good progress. Technical work on the new transportation plan is scheduled to be completed early in 2006.
3. Reviewed and placed on file the Record of Public Comments: Review and Update of Regional Land Use and Transportation System Plans: Volume 1 – August 4-September 20, 2004.

On February 17, 2005, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and acted to recommend to the Commission for adoption an amendment to the regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the Village of Mukwonago. The amendment, scheduled for action later in this meeting, was requested by the Village of Mukwonago and is very minor in extent involving the addition of a five acre parcel of land to the eastern margin of the Mukwonago sewer service area.

2. Reviewed and acted to recommend to the Commission for adoption a proposed amendment to the regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the City of Oconomowoc. The amendment, scheduled for action later in this meeting, was requested by the City of Oconomowoc and involves the formal attachment of a parcel of land located in the Mapleton area of the Town of Oconomowoc to the Oconomowoc sanitary sewer service area for sewage treatment purposes. The attachment involves a sewage holding tank at a restaurant on the remote parcel concerned, and the conveyance by truck of sewage from that parcel to the Oconomowoc treatment facility.
3. Reviewed and acted to recommend to the Commission for adoption an amendment to the regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the Village of Dousman. The amendment, scheduled for action later in this meeting, was requested by the Village of Dousman and involves the addition of an approximately 64 acre parcel to the Dousman sanitary sewer service area. The development plan for this site is consistent not only with the regional land use plan but also with the land use plan reflected in a boundary agreement reached between the Village of Dousman and the neighboring Town of Ottawa.
4. Reviewed a request by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that the Commission amend the regional water quality management plan as it pertains to the City of St. Francis sanitary sewer service area by removing from a designated primary environmental corridor an approximately one-third acre parcel on which a four unit condominium was constructed contrary to plan recommendations. The Committee determined to advise the Department of Natural Resources that the Commission did not believe it was in the best interests of all parties concerned to amend the corridor boundary at this time, given that the developer has additional lands to the north of the subject parcel that are expected to be the subject of further potential plan amendment discussions. The parcel in question is part of a large redevelopment site along the Lake Michigan shoreline where an electric power generation plant once operated.
5. Reviewed and approved for publication Chapters 4 and 5 of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 48, A Regional Land Use Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035. These chapters deal with regional land use development objectives, principles, and standards and regional population and employment projections, respectively.
6. Reviewed and approved for publication Chapters 1 and 7 of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 50, A Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update for the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds. The Committee's action followed a staff briefing on the substantive material contained in the two chapters, including a set of water quality management goals, objectives, and standards. The Commission's Advisory Committee overseeing this project has become active in recent months, with the plan updating work effort scheduled to continue through the end of 2006.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Herro, and carried unanimously, the Planning and Research Committee report was approved.

Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee

Noting that the Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee met once since the last Commission Quarterly meeting on December 1, 2004, Chairman Morrison reported the following items:

On February 24, 2005, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Discussed the potential impacts of “tax freeze” legislation on Commission budgeting procedures. It was concluded that should some sort of property tax increment restraints be placed upon counties, an awkward and potentially troublesome situation will arise with regard to the Commission’s annual operating budget when it is received by at least some of the counties. Difficulties likely will occur because the tax bases of the counties increase at different rates. Consequently, even when the Commission seeks no additional tax monies, some counties pay more and some pay less than in the previous year. Thus, while the Commission could abide by a cap at the regional level, the distribution of the regional levy request will exceed the cap amount in some counties. The Committee agreed that this matter should be discussed with the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) and with county lobbying and other officials to sensitize them to this issue. An effort would then be made to discuss with individual key legislators the possibility of taking steps to ensure that cooperative county efforts, like regional planning, are either exempted from county tax levy cap computations or given their own individual caps.
2. Discussed the need to determine whether or not the Commission should continue to contract with counties to provide county surveying services. The Committee determined that the Commission should vigorously pursue long term arrangements with individual counties, whereby the Commission would commit to deliver cost effective county surveying services, and would maintain appropriate staff, vehicles, and equipment toward that end. A definitive proposal for consideration by counties will be prepared and presented to each county. If a minimum of four to five counties indicate a desire to establish a permanent arrangement to provide county surveying services, the Committee likely would recommend to the Commission the establishment of a consortium for that purpose.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Miklasevich, seconded by Mr. Moyer, and carried unanimously, the Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee report was approved.

Administrative Committee

Noting that the Administrative Committee had met twice since the last Commission Quarterly meeting on December 1, 2004, Vice-Chairman Brooks reported the following items:

On December 21, 2004, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved the Commission disbursements for four financial reporting periods: Year 2004 Nos. 22, 23, 24, and 25, extending over the period October 18 to December 12, 2004.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending December 12, 2004. With nearly 95 percent of the year completed, the projections indicated a year end surplus of about \$68,000.
3. Received and placed on file a report on employee enrollment in the 2005 group health insurance program. A total of 65 Commission employees elected to obtain medical insurance coverage, paying at a minimum 17 percent of the premium cost. Eleven Commission employees declined medical insurance coverage. The total cost of medical insurance should approximate \$672,000 during 2005, that figure lying within the adopted 2005 budget amount for this purpose.
4. Received and approved a recommendation from an Ad Hoc Subcommittee that the Commission accept a proposal from the firm of David L. Scrima, S.C. to conduct the Commission’s calendar year

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2004 financial audit. The Commission solicited proposals for the provision of auditing services, with two such proposals received. The Scrima firm has been providing auditing services to the Commission for a number of years. The Scrima firm's proposal was about one-fourth of the cost of the proposal submitted by the firm of Coleman and Williams.

On February 24, 2005, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved the Commission disbursements for four financial reporting periods: Year 2004 No. 26 and Year 2005 Nos. 1, 2, and 3, extending over the period December 13, 2004, to February 6, 2005.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending February 6, 2005. The review focused primarily on the revenue estimates for 2005. Certain Federal and State continuing planning program funds have yet to be secured, but there is no reason to believe that – with one exception – all budgeted Federal and State monies will not be forthcoming. The exception relates to Federal funds for the proposed 2005 orthophotography program. Owing to a statutory cap placed in the current State Biennial Budget Bill by the State Legislature, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is unable, at this time, to commit available Federal funds to the Commission for the orthophotography program. The Commission staff is presently exploring alternatives to address this problem, it being the position of the County Land Information Officers in the Region that a way must be found to move forward in 2005 with the orthophotography program.
3. Received a report that the Commission met an unusual 27th bi-weekly payroll during calendar year 2004, but that the monies concerned were considered to be an advance on Commission staff salaries for 2005, with the 2005 salaries being appropriately reduced. The Committee determined that in future years when there will be 27 payroll dates in a calendar year, something that won't occur again until 2016, the Commission's Business Manager should make an adjustment at the beginning of that year by dividing Commission staff salaries by 27 instead of 26 to reflect the extra payroll date.
4. Reviewed and recommended to the Executive Committee approval of a series of minor amendments to the Commission's Flexible Benefits Plan document. The amendments were recommended by the Commission's consultant in such matters in order to keep the document current with Federal requirements.

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

Executive Committee

Noting that the Executive Committee met twice since the last Commission Quarterly meeting on December 1, 2004, Chairman Buestrin reported the following items:

On December 21, 2004, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meeting that day.
2. Reviewed and approved two contracts for planning and related work. The details pertaining to these contracts are set forth in a table placed at your desk today.

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3. Recommended approval of three applications for Federal grants or loans as being in conformance or not in conflict with the regional plans prepared by the Commission. The details pertaining to those applications are set forth in a table included with the agenda for this meeting.
4. Received a report that contracts with the seven counties relative to funding the regional water supply study were in the process of being executed. It was the consensus of the Committee that work on the study should begin early in 2005, with the staff to issue a formal press release announcing the initiation of the study.
5. Received a report that the Commission staff was scheduled to brief the county executives and mayors from Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee in mid-January on the steps that need to be taken in order to obtain Federal permission to conduct preliminary engineering for the proposed Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail project.
6. Received a report that the Commission had received an unsolicited \$5,000 grant from the Tellier Foundation in support of the conduct of the regional telecommunications study.
7. Received a report attendant to Commission co-sponsorship of two conferences early in 2005. The first conference involved a cooperative effort with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and pertained to water quality initiatives. That conference was held on February 23, 2005, in Milwaukee. The second conference involved a joint effort between the Commission and its regional planning counterparts at the southern end of Lake Michigan - the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) and the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC). The conference, which addressed water supply planning issues, was held February 15-16, 2005, in Chicago.

On February 24, 2005, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received and approved reports from the Administrative Committee and the Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee relative to their meetings that day.
2. Reviewed and approved 17 contracts for planning and related work. The details pertaining to those contracts are set forth in a table placed at your desk today.
3. Recommended approval of seven applications for Federal grants or loans as being in conformance or not in conflict with the regional plans prepared by the Commission. The details pertaining to those applications are set forth in a table included with the agenda for this meeting.
4. Reviewed and approved the 2005-2007 Regional Transportation Improvement Program. That program consists of Federally required listings of all highway and transit projects proposed to be undertaken in the Region over the next several years. The program had been thoroughly reviewed and approved by three Commission advisory committees which assist the staff in this important matter.
5. Authorized the Commission Chair to execute a letter of understanding with the Chicago Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). The letter pertains to Federal fiscal year 2005 transit funding for the Round Lake Beach urbanized area, a small portion of which extends into western Kenosha County. The agreement reserves certain Federal transit funds for potential use in providing transit services in western Kenosha County, but acknowledges that if Kenosha County does not claim those funds, they will be used to support transit services in the Illinois portion of the urbanized area.

6. Received a report that a representative from the Federal Department of Transportation had asked to appear before the Commission at today's meeting to brief the Commission on the findings and recommendations attendant to the Federally mandated certification review of the transportation planning process in Southeastern Wisconsin. That review is conducted every three years. The Federal report will be given later in this meeting.

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

AMENDMENTS TO REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Village of Mukwonago Sewer Service Area Plan (Resolution No. 2005-02)

Chairman Buestrin asked the Commission to consider Resolution No. 2005-02, noting that the Resolution would revise the Village of Mukwonago sanitary sewer service area. He asked Mr. Schmidt to present the resolution.

Mr. Schmidt noted that all Commissioners had received for review prior to the meeting a copy of Resolution No. 2005-02, together with a copy of a SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated March 2005 documenting the proposed amendment. He recalled that the proposed amendment had been reviewed by the Planning and Research Committee at its meeting held on February 17, 2005, and was recommended for adoption by the Committee.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Miklasevich, and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 2005-02 was approved (copy of Resolution No. 2005-02 attached to Official Minutes).

City of Oconomowoc Sewer Service Area Plan (Resolution No. 2005-03)

Chairman Buestrin asked the Commission to consider Resolution No. 2005-03, noting that the Resolution would revise the City of Oconomowoc sanitary sewer service area plan. He asked Mr. Schmidt to present the resolution.

Mr. Schmidt noted that all Commissioners had received for review prior to the meeting a copy of Resolution No. 2005-03, together with a copy of a SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated March 2005 documenting the proposed amendment. He recalled that the proposed amendment had been reviewed by the Planning and Research Committee at its meeting held on February 17, 2005, and was recommended for adoption by the Committee.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Herro, and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 2005-03 was approved (copy of Resolution No. 2005-03 attached to Official Minutes).

Village of Dousman Sanitary Sewer Service Area Plan (Resolution No. 2005-04)

Chairman Buestrin asked the Commission to consider Resolution No. 2005-04, noting that the Resolution would revise the Village of Dousman sanitary sewer service area. He asked Mr. Schmidt to present the resolution.

Mr. Schmidt noted that all Commissioners had received for review prior to the meeting a copy of Resolution No. 2005-04, together with a copy of a SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated March 2005 documenting the proposed amendment. He recalled that the proposed amendment had been reviewed by

the Planning and Research Committee at its meeting held on February 17, 2005, and was recommended for adoption by the Committee.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 2005-04 was approved (copy of Resolution No. 2005-04 attached to Official Minutes).

PRESENTATION BY FEDERAL OFFICIALS ON THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2004 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS CERTIFICATION REVIEW

Chairman Buestrin recalled that under Federal law, the U.S. Department of Transportation must conduct a certification review of the Commission's transportation planning work program every three years. He then called on Mr. Dwight McComb, Planning and Program Development Engineer of the Federal Highway Administration, to report the results of the most recent review.

Mr. McComb distributed to the members of the Commission an Executive Summary of the Federal report, noting that the entire report would be provided to the Commission staff in the near future for posting on the Commission's website. He indicated that the basic purpose of the review was to ensure that the Federal requirements attendant to the transportation planning process are being met. He then reviewed the Executive Summary of the report, making the following key points: (copy of Executive Summary attached to Official Minutes):

- On an overall basis, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration have determined that the Commission is in full compliance with Federal metropolitan transportation planning requirements. Accordingly, no corrective actions are being cited.
- Given the intensity of the Milwaukee-based criticism of SEWRPC expressed at a hearing on this matter, the Federal review team closely examined several factors, including representation in SEWRPC decision-making, regard for public input in decision-making, and accommodation of Title VI in SEWRPC programs and practices. No violations of Federal requirements related to these factors were found. However, Federal officials are proposing to schedule a meeting with City of Milwaukee and SEWRPC officials to discuss issues and opportunities to improve the working relationship between the City and SEWRPC within the metropolitan transportation planning process. They also will recommend that Commission staff meet with those citizens, elected officials, and interest groups expressing concerns during the certification review to better understand their concerns and consider improvements in public involvement in transportation planning. Among steps that could be taken to address certain concerns are Advisory Committee members and Commissioner attendance at key public hearings to receive public comments directly, and encouraging local officials to give greater consideration to the appointment of minorities and females when they are asked to help create Commission advisory committees.
- The Commission should work with the Chicago Area Transportation Study to execute a formal agreement relative to the coordination of planning activities for the bi-state Round Lake Beach urbanized area.
- SEWRPC should focus additional resources to address monitoring of plan implementation and to strengthen the operation of the congestion management system.

- The SEWRPC initiative that is attempting to more closely link transportation planning and environmental analysis attendant to transportation projects represents a commendable planning practice.
- SEWRPC has shown commendable leadership within the Wisconsin transportation community with respect to the coordination of transportation and air quality planning.

Chairman Buestrin thanked Mr. McComb for his report. Mr. Evenson indicated that the Commission staff appreciated the efforts of the Federal review team in conducting the triennial review process and indicated that the Commission would carefully examine and try to act upon the suggestions and recommendations made by that team to improve the ongoing transportation planning process.

Chairman Buestrin then recognized Kenneth R. Yunker, SEWRPC Deputy Director, and George E. Melcher, Director of Planning and Development for Kenosha County. Mr. Melcher offered brief remarks, thanking the Commission for all the effort given to Kenosha County and its staff over the years. Both Chairman Buestrin and Mr. Evenson thanked Mr. Melcher for his remarks. Mr. Evenson then recognized Donna L. Brown, Systems Planning Manager for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, who was also in attendance at the meeting.

STAFF WORK IN PROGRESS REPORT

Water Supply Study

Mr. Evenson reported that work on the regional water supply study was now underway. There is a great deal of interest in this important work effort, he continued, heightened by the broader discussion that is ongoing in the Great Lakes region relative to the Annex 2001 proposal made by the Council of Great Lakes Governors. The initiative by the City of Waukesha and perhaps other local governments in Waukesha County to potentially seek approval to use Lake Michigan water west of the Sub-Continental Divide also is in the news and heightens interest in the Commission's program. Moreover, he said, the Public Policy Forum has received foundation grant funds to explore the policy aspects attendant to water management in the Region. The Commission staff, he said, will move this matter forward over the next two to three years. He indicated that the staff would be presenting to the Executive Committee for consideration at its March 31, 2005, meeting a structure for an advisory committee to guide the effort.

Telecommunications Study

Mr. Evenson indicated that work was moving along relatively smoothly on the regional telecommunications study. The Commission's Advisory Committee guiding this effort has been meeting periodically to review study design and initial planning report materials. Work on the preparation of a regional antenna siting plan is proceeding, looking ahead to technology that would accommodate fixed wireless in addition to mobile wireless communications. The Planning and Research Committee will begin shortly to receive initial report materials emanating from this study.

KRM Commuter Rail

Mr. Evenson indicated that he and Chairman Buestrin had participated in a ceremonial event on Friday, February 25, 2005, with the County Executives and Mayors from Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee to jointly execute an intergovernmental partnership agreement. That agreement provides the basis for moving the proposed Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail project forward to a point where the Federal Transit Administration will fund engineering work efforts preparatory to initiating commuter rail services in the corridor. Under the terms of the intergovernmental agreement, the Commission will act as fiscal agent for the partnership and provide technical support in terms of the additional planning, environmental, and other issues that need to be addressed to satisfy Federal requirements. The

Commission staff will work with a seven-member KRM Steering Committee to meet the technical challenges that remain. At the same time, the chief elected officials from the corridor will be working with the business communities to identify appropriate sources of local funding in support of the project and to develop a strong political base of support for securing that funding. The partnership work effort is expected to continue over the next 18 months.

County-based “Smart Growth” Efforts

Mr. Evenson noted that the Wisconsin Department of Administration had planned to announce today the decisions made by the Wisconsin Land Council attendant to provision of State grants to support Smart Growth planning efforts in 2005. That announcement, however, had been delayed.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson noted that there was no correspondence to be brought to the attention of the Commission. He then brought to the Commission’s attention an upcoming Public Policy Forum luncheon on regional cooperation from a historic perspective. The forum will be held on March 24, 2005, at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee and Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

CONFIRMATION OF DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF MARCH QUARTERLY MEETING

Chairman Buestrin announced that the next meeting of the Commission would be scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2005, in Washington County.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

PCE/lw
Attachments
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