

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 26, 2005

2:00 p.m.

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

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

Thomas H. Buestrin, Chairman
Robert A. Brooks (Alternate)
Allen L. Morrison
Adelene Robinson
Daniel S. Schmidt
Paul G. Vrakas
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

William R. Drew, Vice-Chairman
Richard A. Hansen
Linda J. Seemeyer

Absent:

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson
Loretta Watson

Executive Director
Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Buestrin called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson noted for the record that Commissioners Drew, Hansen, and Seemeyer had asked to be excused. Mr. Buestrin noted that he had asked Mr. Brooks to attend the meeting as an alternate member of the Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2005, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on April 28, 2005, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. VRAKAS REPORTING

(Meeting of May 26, 2005)

Mr. Vrakas 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 2005 Nos. 9 and 10, extending over the period April 18, 2005, to May 15, 2005.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending May 15, 2005. With nearly 40 percent of the year completed, the projections indicated a year end surplus of about \$132,000, reflecting a substantial decline in anticipated service agreement revenues in the floodland management program area. These revenues, while secure in terms of signed agreements, likely will not be earned until 2006.
3. Reviewed and approved a series of budget assumptions for calendar year 2006 proposed by the Commission staff. One assumption would have the Commission modestly increase its regional property tax levy by about 0.66 percent. This increase would raise an additional \$15,500. Other assumptions include Federal and State revenues in 2006 for transportation and water quality planning purposes slightly below the levels in 2005; an assumed increase in service agreement revenues of about \$97,000; and a full-time staffing level of 76 persons, four fewer than 2005.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Wirth, 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 eight contracts reported on the table. He noted that all but one of the contracts dealt with regional and/or county orthophotography or topographic mapping programs, the latter involving Waukesha and Racine Counties and the City of Hartford. The single non-orthophotography-mapping contract involves the provision of about \$58,000 in funds by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to support the 2005 water quality planning program.

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

GEO 29 REVIEW

Chairman Buestrin asked Mr. Evenson to report on the Federal grants and loans and direct Federal development projects submitted to the Commission for intergovernmental review pursuant to the requirements set forth in Gubernatorial Executive Order No. 29.

Mr. Evenson noted that summaries of the fifteen project applications were provided to the Committee members with the agenda for the meeting. There were no conflicts, he said, between any of the projects and the adopted regional plans.

On a motion by Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Mr. Brooks, and carried unanimously, the following fifteen applications were recommended to the grantor agencies for approval as being in conformance, or not in conflict, with adopted regional plans: two community action programs (CAP-2136 and CAP-2137); twelve conservation programs (CONSER-931 through CONSER-942); and one community development program (COMDEV-427) (copy of table attached to Official Minutes).

**CONSIDERATION OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR COORDINATION OF
LAND USE-TRANSPORTATION PLANNING IN THE ROUND LAKE BEACH-
McHENRY-GRAYSLAKE, IL-WI URBANIZED AREA**

Mr. Evenson recalled that the matter of a cooperative agreement between transportation planning agencies focused in part on the Round Lake Beach-McHenry-Grayslake, IL-WI Urbanized Area has been under consideration for several months, such agreement being required by the U.S. Department of Transportation because the subject urbanized area lies in both states. He noted that copies of the proposed cooperative agreement were provided to Committee members in advance of the meeting, and that the agreement involves commitments on the part of not only SEWRPC and its counterpart in the Chicago area – the Chicago Area Transportation Study Policy Committee, but also the Illinois and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation. From the staff's perspective, Mr. Evenson indicated that the formal cooperative agreement simply recognizes the coordinative efforts among these parties that have taken place for many years on an informal basis. The cooperative agreement, Mr. Evenson continued, is recommended for execution by the Commission Chairman.

After a brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the Commission Chairman was authorized to execute the subject cooperative agreement for coordination of land use-transportation planning across the Wisconsin-Illinois State Line (copy attached to Official Minutes).

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO 2005-2007 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Evenson noted that the Committee members had been provided in advance of the meeting a copy of Resolution 2005-06 and a single exhibit that seeks to amend the 2005-2007 Regional Transportation Improvement Program. The amendment, he said, is being sought by the Social Development Commission of Milwaukee County (SDC). The SDC, he said, seeks to secure matching Federal funds in the amount of \$461,000 over a two year period to operate a "Ways to Work" Initiative. Under this Initiative, SDC would provide loans to low-income Milwaukee County families for the purpose of purchasing automobiles that will help ensure transportation to jobs. The Federal funds have been earmarked for this purpose by the U.S. Congress. The project has been approved by the Commission's Milwaukee area advisory committee governing transportation improvement matters by a postcard ballot, although the vote was not unanimous.

After a brief discussion during which Mr. Brooks pointed out that a similar application for funds to start a car purchase program in Waukesha County likely will be forthcoming, on a motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Vrakas, and carried unanimously, Resolution 2005-06 was adopted (copy attached to Official Minutes).

STAFF REPORTS ON WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Evenson reported that work continues on the effort to move the proposed Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Rail Line (KRM) to fruition. On the technical side of the work, the Commission is scheduled to release by the end of this month a request for proposals (RFP) by consulting teams interested in helping the Commission and the KRM Steering Committee refine the service proposal and prepare a draft environmental assessment document, all of which constitutes precursor work to getting Federal approval to enter preliminary engineering. In addition, contractual arrangements are being put in place between various parties to secure Federal and State funding and the local match to such funding. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has assigned a Federal grant in the amount of up to \$3.2 million

to the Commission. In addition, WisDOT will contract with Kenosha County to provide up to \$400,000 in State funds to help match the Federal funds, with Kenosha County in turn contracting with the Commission to expend such funds, the Commission acting as fiscal agent for the KRM Partnership. The KRM Steering Committee met once during the last month to review the draft RFP document.

With respect to identifying and securing a local funding source for the proposed KRM service, the Greater Milwaukee Committee (GMC) has taken the lead in this effort, working with the business community and the local chief elected officials. The Commission staff has been providing technical support to this group on an ongoing basis, with several meetings being held over the past 60 days. At this point, it would appear that the GMC group will seek legislation in the forthcoming State Biennial Budget Bill to establish a three county Regional Transit Authority, with the Authority being empowered to make recommendations as to how the commuter rail service and other mass transit in Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties should be funded. In this respect, the proposed three county Regional Transit Authority would operate in a manner very similar to the now defunct seven county regional transportation authority that operated in the early 1990's, the major differences being geographic scope and a focus only on transit and not both transit and highways.

Mr. Evenson also reported that a request for qualifications (RFQ) will be released by the Commission by the end of the month for engineering consulting services needed in conjunction with conducting the regional water supply study. Efforts will also be mounted shortly to reach agreements with the Federal and State geological agencies for their assistance in conducting the required work. Advisory Committee appointments have been made, with all individuals contacted accepting the Commission's invitation to serve.

Mr. Evenson also reported that, in accordance with direction from the Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee as reported to the full Commission at the March 2, 2005, Quarterly meeting, efforts are being made to ascertain the interest of the seven counties in the Region in making a long-term commitment to contract with the Commission to provide and/or support County Surveyor activities. A draft five year contract proposal towards that end has been prepared and is now undergoing review in Kenosha, Ozaukee, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha Counties. The proposal has yet to be presented to appropriate individuals in Milwaukee and Racine Counties. Under the proposal, the Commission would offer to provide County Surveyor or County Surveyor support services to each county at a fixed cost for the five year period 2006-2010, such costs being apportioned to the individual counties based equally on two factors: the number of U.S. Public Land Survey System monuments in the county, and the relative amount of urban development in the county. The intent of this effort is to have individual counties consider and act on the proposal as part of the forthcoming local budgeting processes.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson reported that the Commission had entered into an agreement with Mueller Communications, Inc., of Milwaukee to help the Commission develop informational materials designed to communicate to a variety of audiences the mission and work program of the Commission. The Mueller firm will also help the Commission reach out to various groups in connection with, for example, recommendations recently made by the Federal Highway Administration following the Commission's recertification as the Region's metropolitan planning organization.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 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