

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 27, 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
William R. Drew, Vice-Chairman
Robert A. Brooks (Alternate)
Adelene Greene
Richard A. Hansen
Allen L. Morrison
Paul G. Vrakas
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Daniel S. Schmidt
Linda J. Seemeyer

Absent:

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson
Loretta Watson

Executive Director
Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Buestrin called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson noted for the record that Commissioners Schmidt 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 SEPTEMBER 29, 2005, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Drew, seconded by Mr. Morrison, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on September 29, 2005, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. VRAKAS REPORTING

(Meeting of October 27, 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. 20 and 21, extending over the period September 19, 2005, to October 16, 2005.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending October 16, 2005. With about 80 percent of the year completed, the projections indicated a year end surplus of about \$120,000.
3. Received a report on a meeting held with JP Morgan, the trustee for the Rockwood Drive Building bonds. That meeting was preparatory for beginning the process of placing funds with the trustee to be used in 2011 to retire the then remaining bonds on the building.
4. Received a report from Commission staff that a Commission survey crew vehicle was broken into and certain surveying equipment stolen. The theft occurred in the City of Milwaukee. The Commission Chairman expressed to the Milwaukee Police Chief the Commission's disappointment on the extraordinary length of time it took for the Milwaukee Police Department to respond to the staff's telephone call at 10:30 a.m. relative to the theft. A Milwaukee police officer did not arrive at the scene until 3:15 p.m. The major item lost in the theft was a surveyor's instrument called a "total station" which has been replaced at a cost of about \$10,500. The Commission's insurance company will reimburse the Commission for about 80 percent of that amount after taking depreciation into account.
5. Received a report that Ewald Chevrolet of Oconomowoc was the low bidder on the purchase of a replacement truck for use in surveying operations. The new truck, a Chevrolet Silverado, is being acquired for about \$24,000. The truck replaces a 1998 vehicle.
6. Received a report that negotiations are continuing with Medical Associates, Inc., for a new lease by that firm for space in the Rockwood Drive building. The present lease expires on March 31, 2006.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, 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 entry pertained to the regional digital orthophotography program and involved the commitment of funds on the part of Kenosha, Ozaukee, Racine, and Washington Counties to help provide the local share of the cost of this program. The second contract involves initial work by the firm of Ruckert & Mielke, Inc., on the regional water supply study.

After a brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, 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 two 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.

Following a brief discussion, on a motion by Ms. Greene, seconded by Mr. Vrakas, and carried unanimously, the following two applications were recommended to the grantor agencies for approval as being in conformance, or not in conflict, with adopted regional plans: two conservation programs (CONSER-966 and CONSER-967) (copy of table attached to Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO PUBLIC RECORDS ACCESS POLICY

Mr. Evenson noted that all members of the Committee had received in advance of the meeting suggested changes to wording in the Commission's Public Records Access Policy and Fee Schedule. He then reviewed the proposed changes, noting that the changes were suggested by the Commission's legal counsel and were intended to set forth a procedure whereby, consistent with State law, the Commission would charge requesting parties the full cost of complying with any request exceeding \$50.

After a brief discussion relative to differential charge rates per hour based upon the particular Commission staff member deployed to fulfill a request, on a motion by Mr. Drew, seconded by Mr. Wirth, and carried unanimously, the proposed changes to the Public Records Access Policy and Fee Schedule were approved (copy of revised policy attached).

STAFF REPORTS AND ATTENDANT ACTIONS

Mr. Evenson reported on the following matters relative to progress in carrying out the Commission's work program:

1. The Commission's advisory committee guided in the preparation of the new 2035 regional land use plan has completed its work on the preparation of a draft recommendation plan. That plan will be taken to public hearing at the same time as a companion new regional transportation plan is ready. These hearings will not be held until early in 2006.
2. With respect to the K-R-M commuter rail work effort, Mr. Evenson reported that execution of a contract with the selected consultant for the work effort has been delayed pending additional review by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. While the Federal Transit Authority has not yet formally approved the transfer of a State grant for this project from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to the Commission, the Commission has received approval from the Federal Transit Authority to begin incurring costs. Consequently, just as soon as the Wisconsin Department of Transportation approves the proposed agreement with the study consultant, work can begin.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Wirth, Mr. Evenson indicated that between 300 and 400 passengers a day use the Kenosha commuter rail station where service is bound for Chicago. In response to a follow up question by Mr. Vrakas, Mr. Evenson said that the Metra line that terminates in Kenosha has its Chicago loop terminus in the Olgivie Transportation Center (the former Chicago and Northwestern Depot), and not the Union Station. The two terminals, he noted, are separated by only two to three blocks. Referring to the daily Amtrak service between Milwaukee and Chicago, Mr. Hansen reported that before daylight that day he had observed standees on the train as it passed through the Sturtevant area on its way to Chicago. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Vrakas relative to the three-county Regional Transit Authority (RTA) created in part to take responsibility for implementing the KRM service extension project, Mr. Evenson indicated that the RTA governing board would have seven members: one appointed by the Governor from the City of Milwaukee, and one each appointed by the County Executives and Mayors of Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine. In response to a question by Mr. Wirth, Mr. Evenson indicated that the RTA legislation was broadly written to enable the RTA board to examine transit funding issues in Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties attendant to all forms of transit, and not just the proposed rail transit service.

3. Negotiations will begin shortly with Ms. Lawrie Kozba, an attorney with the Boardman Law Firm in Madison, relative to the preparation of a report dealing with water supply law. After conferring with the deans of both Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin Law Schools, a determination has been made to retain Ms. Kozba and her colleagues to undertake the required work program.
4. Commission staff, together with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) staff, met recently with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Editorial Board and reporters. The purpose of the meeting was to brief those individuals on initial findings coming out of the update of the regional water quality management plan for the Milwaukee area watersheds. As a result of this meeting, work being carried out jointly by the Commission and MMSD received substantial news coverage in the Sunday edition of the Journal Sentinel on October 23, 2005.

[Secretary's Note:

Following the above-referenced Journal Sentinel article, the Editor of Milwaukee Magazine published an on-line opinion piece in which he concluded that the Milwaukee media has misled the public as to the performance of the MMSD deep tunnel system and that the deep tunnel should be considered an "engineering triumph." A copy of the opinion piece is attached.]

5. The Commission has concluded work on three applications for State funding in support of "Smart Growth" partnership planning for the Counties of Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth. These applications are being filed with the Wisconsin Department of Administration prior to the November 1, 2005, deadline. Additional planning staff in the Commission's Community Assistance Division will be required should these grant applications be funded next year. Walworth County has made a determination to self-fund the work should the State grant not be forthcoming.

Mr. Evenson also reported that efforts continue to detail the proposed parking lot expansion project. During the past week, the Commission's legal counsel reported that RidgeView LLC had signed the papers necessary to convey an additional strip of land to the Commission needed to meet the City of Pewaukee's "green space" requirements. In addition, two alternate designs have been completed and are

being reviewed by contractors for cost estimating purposes. Given the time of the year, it may not be possible to undertake the project before winter sets in. However, it would be the intent, based on the cost data expected to be shortly received, to select an alternate design as soon as possible and obtain City of Pewaukee approval of the project yet this year.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson reported that the Commission staff is participating in an organization known as the Southeastern Wisconsin Communications Resource/Support Group (SEWCRSG). That group consists of law enforcement representatives from public agencies and non-profit organizations who desire to come together to explore opportunities to cost effectively enhance the delivery of emergency services throughout southeastern Wisconsin. The focus of the group is on communications between law enforcement and emergency service agencies. This activity complements the Commission's work in telecommunications planning.

Mr. Morrison reported that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Rock County continue to examine a potential extension of a Metra commuter rail service line that goes through the Village of Sharon in Walworth County. Mr. Evenson indicated that the staff was aware of the study and would keep abreast with it.

Mr. Morrison also reported that Walworth County is involved with the Rock River Coalition. Mr. Evenson reported that the Commission staff is also familiar with that Coalition and does participate from time to time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Mr. Drew, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

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Attachments