

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 29, 2006

2:00 p.m.

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

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

Thomas H. Buestrin, Chairman
Adelene Greene
Allen L. Morrison
Daniel S. Schmidt
David L. Stroik
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 2:15 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 25, 2006, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Vrakas, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on May 25, 2006, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. VRAKAS REPORTING

(Meeting of June 29, 2006)

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 2006 Nos. 11 and 12, extending over the period May 15, 2006, to June 11, 2006.

2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending June 11, 2006. With nearly one-half of the year completed, the projections indicate a year end surplus of about \$110,000.
3. Authorized the Commission's Business Manager to proceed to renew comprehensive business insurance coverage with the West Bend Mutual Insurance Company for the year beginning on July 28, 2006, supplementing that coverage with errors and omissions and employment practices liability insurance to be obtained from the Illinois National Insurance Company. The total cost of the business insurance package for the next year approximates \$56,000.
4. Received and approved a report that an Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Commissioners Buestrin, Schmidt, and Vrakas and the Executive Director, had proposed annual salary adjustments in the amount of about 3.2 percent of base salaries. Such adjustments were made on the basis of merit.
5. Received a report that the Arbitrage Rebate Company, a division of Foley & Lardner law firm, has made a legal determination that there is no arbitrage rebate liability on the part of the Commission relative to the industrial development revenue bonds issued by the City of Pewaukee in connection with the acquisition of the Rockwood Drive building five years ago.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Morrison, 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 a single contract prior to the meeting. Mr. Evenson then briefly reviewed the single contract reported on the table, noting that it is a very minor contractual arrangement with the Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce to statistically analyze survey data collected by that Chamber.

There being no discussion, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the report relative to the contract 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 six 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 Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the following six 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-2164 and CAP-2165); one conservation program (CONSER-994); and three housing programs (HOUS-587 through HOUS-589) (copy of table attached to Official Minutes).

WORK PROGRESS REPORTS

Mr. Evenson reported that Kenosha County has become the fifth county in the Region to contract with the Commission to carry out the County Surveyor function. The Commission's Executive Director Emeritus, Dr. Kurt W. Bauer, has been appointed the Kenosha County Surveyor by the County Executive and has been confirmed by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Evenson also reported that efforts continue to work with the Chairman of the Milwaukee County Economic and Community Development Committee, Supervisor Michael Mayo, to develop a program that would facilitate redevelopment activities in the 30th Street industrial corridor of the City of Milwaukee. It is hoped that the structure of a program will be ready for consideration by all parties by early this fall. Mr. Evenson indicated that it is likely that the Commission will be asked to create an Advisory Committee to help oversee this program.

Finally, Mr. Evenson reported that the fiscal crisis in Milwaukee County has led Milwaukee County Public Works officials to seek a change in how Federal Transit funds allocated to the Milwaukee urbanized area are sub-allocated to the four designated recipients of such funds: the Counties of Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Washington, and Waukesha. Such funds presently total about \$19 million annually. These Federal funds are nationally allocated to major metropolitan areas on a basis of a formula that takes into account factors relating to population, population density, vehicle-miles of transit service provided, and a measure of transit service efficiency. For many years that Federal allocation of funds was used in the Milwaukee urbanized area for sub-allocation purposes. Beginning in 2001, agreement was reached among the transit operators to sub-allocate available monies using a formula that weighs equally the national allocation formula and a combination of transit service measures, including passenger miles of service, the number of revenue passengers, the number of vehicle-miles of service, and the number of vehicle-hours of service. Under this present formula, Milwaukee County receives 86.3 percent of the available funds, Waukesha County 8.5 percent, Washington County 2.7 percent, and Ozaukee County 2.5 percent.

Milwaukee County has proposed that beginning in 2006, the local formula for sub-allocation of funds be changed to rely 100 percent on the four measures of service noted above. The effect of such a change would shift about \$867,500 to Milwaukee County from the other three counties, resulting in Milwaukee County receiving 90.9 percent of the Federally allocated funds to the Milwaukee urbanized area. Over the period of the past several months, the Commission staff has held a series of meetings with the transit operators in an effort to reach agreement among them as to how best to deal with Milwaukee County's proposal. To date, no such agreement has been reached. The Commission staff has taken the position that while moving to a formula based totally on measures of transit service provided is rational and supportable, Milwaukee County should not expect such an adjustment to be made in the middle of a year when transit system operating budgets have already been determined. After discussion of a number of alternatives that would transition to the allocation proposal made by Milwaukee County, the Commission staff is now in the position of recommending that the existing allocation formula be used for 2006, and that the 100 percent transit service based formula be used beginning in 2007. This will not disrupt this year's transit services in the three counties that would receive less revenue, and would give those counties a chance to adjust as they see fit for calendar year 2007 over the next few months as budget proposals move forward. That adjustment, he said, is made easier by the fact that the transit operators outside of Milwaukee County would receive additional State funding to largely compensate for the Federal funding owing to the way in which the State treats such operators. It is expected that the actual losses to the three other counties would be relatively modest with State funds making up about 90 percent of the Federal fund loss.

Mr. Evenson noted that while the Commission staff continues to seek appropriate agreement with the transit operators concerned, should those operators fail to reach an agreement it will be the responsibility

of the Commission as the Federally recognized metropolitan planning organization to make a decision. During a brief discussion on this matter it was the consensus of the Executive Committee that the basis for the proposal made by the Commission staff was sound and hopefully would be supported by all parties concerned.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson reported that the Commission has received a letter dated June 21, 2006, sent jointly by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration setting forth a finding that the new 2035 regional transportation plan and attendant air quality conformity analyses are in conformance with all Federal Transit planning requirements and those Federal regulations attendant to determining conformity with the Wisconsin State Air Quality Implementation Plan. This conformity finding is valid for a period of four years. With this finding, the Commission is now free to proceed with preparation of a new regional transportation improvement plan (copy of letter attached to Official Minutes).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Greene, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

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Attachments