

**MINUTES**

**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Thursday, November 30, 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 2:30 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 OCTOBER 26, 2006, MEETING**

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on October 26, 2006, were approved as published.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. VRAKAS REPORTING**

(Meeting of November 30, 2006)

Mr. Buestrin 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. 22 and 23, extending over the period October 16, 2006, to November 12, 2006.

2. Received the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial period ending November 12, 2006. With nearly 90 percent of the year completed, the projections indicate a year end surplus of about \$15,000, not including interest income and proceeds from the sale of materials.
3. Received a report on employee enrollment in the 2007 group medical insurance program. A total of 60 Commission employees elected to obtain medical insurance coverage, paying at a minimum 19 percent of the premium cost. Nine Commission employees declined medical insurance coverage. The adopted 2007 budget of about \$773,000 for medical insurance premiums will be adequate.
4. Approved a one-year lease of office space with Milwaukee County Research Park Corporation. The Commission will occupy Room 209 in the Technology Innovation Center at the Research Park at a monthly rent of about \$242.00. The major use of the space will be to conduct the 30<sup>th</sup> Street industrial corridor revitalization project now under way, although the space may prove to be useful for other operating purposes.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Ms. Greene, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, 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 one contract prior to the meeting. Mr. Evenson then briefly reviewed the one contract reported on the table. He noted that this contract provides for financial support for a cooperative "Smart Growth" planning program by eleven towns in Walworth County. The contract with Walworth County for its share of the cost of this program previously had been reported.

There being no discussion, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Morrison, 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 a summary of the four project applications was provided to the Committee members with the agenda for the meeting. There were no conflicts, he said, with the project and the adopted regional plans.

Following a brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Vrakas, and carried unanimously, the following four 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-2171 through CAP-2172); and two conservation programs (CONSER-1003 through CONSER-1004)) (copy of table attached to Official Minutes).

#### **CONSIDERATION OF PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: 2007-2010**

Chairman Buestrin asked Mr. Evenson to briefly comment on the new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Region which covers the period 2007-2010. Mr. Evenson noted that copies of the draft program had been provided to all Committee members prior to the meeting. He recalled that the

program was a Federally required listing of all highway and transit projects proposed to be undertaken in the Region over the next four years, that four-year period being recently prescribed in the new Federal transportation legislation. In order for any highway or transit project to be eligible to receive Federal aid, that project must be included in the program.

Mr. Evenson said that the program had been complied by the Commission staff with a view toward ensuring that all projects were consistent with the adopted regional transportation plan. The listings of projects had been carefully reviewed, corrected as necessary, and approved by the Commission's three advisory committees established to help the Commission staff in this matter, one committee each for the Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha urbanized areas. Those committees met jointly in Milwaukee on November 15, 2006. He then paged through the program document, calling attention to selected projects throughout the Region.

A brief discussion then ensued. At the conclusion of that discussion, Mr. Evenson noted that the public record for comments on this matter was being held open through December 5, 2006. Accordingly, he said, it would be appropriate for the Executive Committee to recommend to the full Commission approval of the 2007-2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program, subject to the Commission receiving a report at the December 6<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting relative to any comments that may be filed in that record. It was then moved by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously to recommend to the full Commission approval of the 2007-2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program, subject to receiving a staff report on the public hearing record at the Commission meeting scheduled for December 6, 2006.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF 2007 CONTRACT FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMERITUS**

Mr. Evenson requested that the Committee consider an extension of the contract it has with the Commission's Executive Director Emeritus, Dr. Kurt W. Bauer, for work to be undertaken over the two-year period 2007-2008. Mr. Evenson noted that Dr. Bauer currently is the County Surveyor of record for Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties, and as such supervises the Commission's field surveying staff in ensuring that the contractual assignments between those counties and the Commission are properly carried out. In addition, Mr. Evenson noted that Dr. Bauer continues to chair two of the Commission's most active advisory committees, one on telecommunications planning and one on water supply planning. As part of those functions, Dr. Bauer helps structure the Commission's work programs and attendant documentation. For this work, Dr. Bauer receives a monthly stipend of \$6,500.

After a brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Vrakas, and carried unanimously, the Chairman was authorized to execute a two-year extension of the contract agreement with the Executive Director Emeritus consistent with the recommendations of the Executive Director.

#### **WORK PROGRESS REPORTS**

Mr. Evenson reported that work efforts continue toward the preparation of three additional regional plan elements that should be ready for Commission consideration and adoption during 2007. These include a regional broadband telecommunications plan element being prepared as a companion to the regional wireless telecommunications plan element adopted earlier this year; a regional water supply system plan, which would be the first such plan ever adopted by the Commission; and a major update to the regional water quality management plan for the Milwaukee area watersheds. The Commission advisory committees that are responsible for guiding these three plan initiatives continue to meet and review and comment on staff prepared documentation. That documentation will be reviewed also by the Commission's Planning and Research Committee as it meets throughout 2007.

Mr. Evenson also reported that the Commission staff continues to expend considerable efforts relative to the completion of the major study on the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail service proposal. That study is being conducted at the request of the Mayors and County Executives from Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee Cities and Counties, and is being done in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. In addition, the Commission staff is providing considerable support to the newly established Regional Transit Authority for Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties. He indicated that he will give a more detailed report on these latter activities at the forthcoming December 6, 2006, Commission Quarterly meeting.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Evenson reported that the status of Commissioner Wirth had changed since the last Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Wirth had been serving as a gubernatorial appointee with a term that expired on September 15, 2006. The Commission has been informed that Mr. Wirth has been appointed by the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors to the Commission to fill the unexpired term of former Commissioner Robert A. Brooks. That term expires on September 15, 2008. Mr. Evenson also reported that the Commission has not heard from Governor Doyle's office as to his choices for Commissioner appointments or reappointments in Kenosha, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, and Washington Counties. In the meantime, he said, the existing Commissioners holding those appointments will continue to serve.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Greene, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson  
Deputy Secretary

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Attachments