

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 22, 2007

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
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

William R. Drew, Vice-Chairman
Richard A. Hansen
David L. Stroik
Paul G. Vrakas

Absent:

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson
Loretta Watson

Executive Director
Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Buestrin called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson noted for the record that Commissioners Drew, Hansen, Stroik, and Vrakas had asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2007, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on January 25, 2007, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. BUESTRIN REPORTING

(Meeting of February 22, 2007)

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 2007 Nos. 2 and 3, extending over the period January 8, 2007, to February 4, 2007.

2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending February 4, 2007. With about 10 percent of the year completed, the projections indicated a year end surplus of about \$390,000, a figure that is expected to decline as the year goes on.
3. Received a report that a natural gas leak had been found near the gas meter at the Rockwood Drive building. We Energies was called and identified a leak in a pipe installed to service the Commission's standby generator when the Commission took occupancy of the building several years ago. The leak was found in an aboveground plastic pipe which was determined not to meet code requirements. ASI General, the Commission's contractor for the work, has taken responsibility for the matter and is expected to shortly install black iron pipe in two above ground locations.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, 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 the contracts and agreements prior to the meeting. Mr. Evenson then briefly reviewed the seven contracts reported on the table, noting that the agreement with the University of Wisconsin-Extension was for the continued services of Extension agent, Gary K. Korb, who conducts a number of outreach activities on behalf of the Commission. In addition, two of the contracts are for conducting county surveyor services in Waukesha and Kenosha Counties, respectively, while two additional contracts deal with land and water conservation planning activities in Kenosha and Racine Counties, respectively. The final two contracts pertain to the 2007 elevation mapping program in Washington County that will be the first in the Region to use LiDAR (Light Detecting and Ranging) technology.

A brief discussion then ensued. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Wirth, Mr. Evenson indicated that the end product in the Washington County elevation mapping program would be two-foot contour interval maps at a scale of 1" = 200'. Those maps would meet national map accuracy standards. While it would be possible to contract for more detailed, precise elevation mapping – for example, one-foot contour intervals at a scale of 1" = 100' – the cost of such a project would be commensurately higher.

Following that discussion, 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 four project applications were provided to the Committee members with the agenda for the meeting. There was no conflict, he said, between any of the projects and the adopted regional plans.

A brief discussion then ensued. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Greene, Mr. Buestrin indicated that none of the Federal grant monies pass through the Commission to the grantee. Rather, the Commission's role is two-fold. First, the Commission has a responsibility to report to the Federal grantor agencies whether or

not a particular project conforms to, is not in conflict with, or conflicts with Commission adopted regional plans. Secondly, the Commission has a responsibility to notify county and local governments of proposed grant applications so that they also have an opportunity to submit comments that would be conveyed to the Federal grantor agencies.

Following that discussion, on a motion by Ms. Greene, seconded by Mr. Wirth, 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: one community development program (COMDEV-428); one community facility program (COMFAC-476); and two conservation programs (CONSER-1011 through CONSER-1012) (copy of table attached to Official Minutes).

WORK PROGRESS REPORTS

Mr. Evenson reported that it is unlikely that the Commission staff will be able to begin a regional housing study update soon given pressing workloads for key Commission staff members attendant to helping counties and communities meet the forthcoming State mandates set forth in the "Smart Growth" law. Nevertheless, he said, housing issues will have to be dealt with at the sub-regional level in all of the Smart Growth plans. It may be, he said, that a regional housing planning effort cannot be undertaken until the Smart Growth planning is largely completed early in 2009.

Mr. Evenson also reported that forthcoming staff changes likely will lead him to merge the local assistance activities currently being undertaken in the Economic Development Division with those activities currently being undertaken in the Community Assistance Division. With the advent of the Milwaukee 7 Regional Economic Council and the activities that that Council is undertaking, there is no need for the Commission to consider undertaking regional economic development planning. Moreover, each of the counties has established, or is in the process of establishing, strong economic development programs. Since Commission activities in this program area tend to be of the assistance type to counties and local governments, he said, it would make sense to simply merge these functions into the Community Assistance Division, probably by the end of the year. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Wirth regarding this matter, Mr. Evenson indicated that the Commission staff would continue to provide support services to the Milwaukee 7 Council's efforts. Those services, he said, flow naturally out of the Commission's broadly based regional planning program.

Finally, Mr. Evenson reported that it has become apparent that the work effort being undertaken on a contract basis by Mr. Paul G. Hayes involving the writing of the history of the Commission will likely be extended throughout calendar years 2007 and 2008. This change will not affect compensation arrangements, but rather only extends the timeframe for the project. Mr. Buestrin observed that this likely will be a beneficial change since the documentation will be finished that much closer to the actual 50 year anniversary date.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson announced that discussions have been held with representatives of the Milwaukee Regional Science and Engineering Fair. These representatives are from the Wisconsin Career Academy, a charter school in Milwaukee that has a relatively high participation of minority students. By aligning with the Wisconsin Career Academy and the science fair, Mr. Evenson continued, the Commission would regain an opportunity to recruit suitable candidates for its minority intern program. He recalled that the Commission had previously agreed to expend \$12,500 a year in pursuit of minority intern recruitment through the ENCOMPASS program created by Milwaukee County Board Supervisor James G. White. This program has been terminated because of lack of funding for recruitment personnel that had

previously been provided by Milwaukee County and several local engineering firms. Mr. Evenson recommended that the Commission become a sponsor of the science fair at a \$3,000 level, the intent being to use that sponsorship as the basis for establishing an ongoing relationship whereby Wisconsin Career Academy would help find appropriate candidates for internships at the Commission.

After a brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the Commission staff was authorized to become a sponsor of the forthcoming science fair at a cost of \$3,000.

Mr. Evenson announced that Governor Jim Doyle is beginning to act on appointments and reappointments to the Commission. He indicated that the Commission has been informed by Governor Doyle that he has reappointed Commissioner Stroik for a six-year term; that he has appointed Commissioner Hansen to a new six-year term from Walworth County, replacing Commissioner Anthony F. Balestrieri; that he has appointed Mr. Robert W. Pitts to a six-year term from Kenosha County, replacing Leon T. Dreger, Robert Pitts being the son of the late former Commissioner Francis Pitts; that he has appointed Mary A. Kacmarcik to a six-year term from Racine County, replacing Commissioner James E. Moyer; and that he has filled the vacancy created in Ozaukee County by the transfer of Commissioner Wirth to a County appointment by appointing William E. Johnson to a six-year term. In addition, Mr. Evenson indicated that Waukesha County Executive Daniel P. Vrakas has nominated County Board Chairman James T. Dwyer to the Commission replacing Commissioner Kenneth C. Herro. He noted that two Commission vacancies remain, one in Racine County to fill the seat previously held by Commissioner Hansen, and the other in Milwaukee County to fill the seat of Commissioner Linda J. Seemeyer, who recently resigned. Mr. Buestrin noted that following the forthcoming March Quarterly meeting he would announce new Committee assignments for the remainder of this year.

Mr. Evenson announced that the March 7th Quarterly meeting will be held at the Resource Center established by the Milwaukee 7 Regional Economic Council at the We Energies building in downtown Milwaukee. Materials for the Quarterly meeting, he said, would be forthcoming shortly. Mr. Buestrin asked that Mr. Evenson invite the We Energies CEO, Gale Klappa, to greet the Commission.

Finally, Mr. Evenson noted that the Commission had recently received a letter from the Director of the Port of Milwaukee requesting support in updating an economic impact statement relating to Port activities. He indicated that he and the Commission's Deputy Director, Kenneth Yunker, would meet soon with the Port Director to discuss this matter.

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. Wirth, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

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Attachments