Overview of SEWRPC Organization and Work Program

Briefing for Environmental Justice Task Force
August 7, 2007

SEWRPC Reason for Being

• Need to maintain a governmental agency with a geography large enough to address many developmental and environmental problems
• Governor ordered creation in 1960 after being petitioned by the seven county boards (predates any Federal mandates)
• Advisory planning body—cannot make anything happen
• Assignment of Federally required functions
  • Transportation (MPO)
  • Air Quality
  • Water Quality
SEWRPC Region

- Seven counties
  - Kenosha
  - Milwaukee
  - Ozaukee
  - Racine
  - Walworth
  - Washington
  - Waukesha
- Area: 2,689 square miles; 5% of State
- Population: 1.97 million persons; 36% of State
- Employment: 1.19 million jobs; 36% of State
- Wealth: $145.4 billion equalized valuation; 37% of State
- 154 general purpose units of government
  - 7 counties
  - 29 cities
  - 57 villages
  - 61 towns
- School districts, utility districts, sewerage districts, sanitary districts, lake management districts

SEWRPC Governance and Operational Culture

- Commission consists of 21 members
  - Three from each of seven counties
  - One appointed by county board; by custom a county supervisor
  - Two appointed by Governor, one from a county board supplied list; can be local elected officials or private sector representatives

- Advisory Committees
  - Direct involvement of public officials, agency representatives, and private citizens
  - Committees tend to be program based; e.g. Advisory Committee on Regional Transportation System Planning
  - Are responsible for reviewing much of the Commission's work
  - Consensus-based recommendations to Commission
  - Commission rarely rejects or modifies advisory committee positions
SEWRPC Statutory Charge/Functions

- Data collection, analysis, and dissemination
  - Uniform, areawide basis
  - Share with public and private sectors
  - Data alone can contribute to better decisions

- Framework of long range, areawide plans for physical development of Region
  - Mandated by State law
  - Land use most basic element
  - Transportation, utility, and facility elements
  - Environmental protection elements

- Provide a center to coordinate day-to-day planning activities
  - Integrate regional and local plans
  - Promote regional plan implementation
  - Facilitate intergovernmental discussions

SEWRPC Funding Sources

- 2007 Budget Revenues: $7,281,838

  - Regional Tax Levy 33%
    $2,370,245*
  - State 6%
    $437,500
  - Federal 35%
    $2,550,000
  - Local Contracts 26%
    $1,924,093

*By law, this sum is apportioned to each county based upon that county's proportion of the total equalized value of the Region
SEWRPC Work Program

• Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
  • Federally recognized with requirements
  • Forecasts of growth and change
  • Regional land use plan
  • Regional transportation plan (highways, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, system management)
  • Relationships to State air quality plan
  • RTA support
  • Short-range subarea transit planning support
  • Project oriented plan implementation support

SEWRPC Work Program—continued

• Environmental Planning
  • Water quality planning
  • Flood hazard mapping and flood mitigation
  • Lake management
  • Sewer service areas
  • Water supply planning
  • Natural areas planning
SEWRPC Work Program—continued

- Telecommunications Planning
- Housing Planning
- County and Local Government Support
  - Orthophotography and mapping
  - “Smart Growth” Planning
  - Zoning and subdivision ordinances
  - County Surveyor consortium
  - Program administration (loan funds, floodplain buyouts)
  - Field activities (wetlands, streams)
  - Shared staff

SEWRPC Staff

- Staff Size
  - 66 full-time employees
  - Part-time help
  - Consultants
- Staff Categories
  - 42 Professional
  - 30 Technical
  - 8 Clerical and Administrative
- Staff Skills and Disciplines
  - Planning and zoning
  - Transportation planning and engineering
  - Transit planning and operations
  - Traffic engineering and impact analysis
  - Airport planning
  - Hydrology
  - Hydraulic engineering
  - Civil and sanitary engineering
  - Surveying and mapping
  - Survey research
  - Public administration
  - Landscape architecture
  - Limnology
  - Biology and plant ecology
  - Soil science
  - Economics
  - Demography
  - Aquatic ecology
# SEWRPC’s Role in the Public Works Development Process (Using Highways as an Example)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process Step</th>
<th>Primary Responsibility</th>
<th>Step Characteristics</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>System Planning</td>
<td>SEWRPC</td>
<td>- Problem definition&lt;br&gt;- Objectives and standards&lt;br&gt;- Areawide perspective&lt;br&gt;- Analysis is comprehensive in nature&lt;br&gt;- Evaluation of broad range of alternatives</td>
<td>Selection of a recommended system plan with broad estimate of impacts and costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary Engineering</td>
<td>WisDOT&lt;br&gt;Counties&lt;br&gt;Municipalities</td>
<td>- Refines and details the project recommended in system plan&lt;br&gt;- Local, focused perspective&lt;br&gt;- Analysis narrowly confined&lt;br&gt;- Evaluation of narrow set of alternatives that are variations of the recommended solution</td>
<td>Project plan with detailed impact analysis and costs suitable for decision-making</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Design, Construction, Operation</td>
<td>WisDOT&lt;br&gt;Counties&lt;br&gt;Municipalities</td>
<td>- Develop detailed construction plans and specifications for project&lt;br&gt;- Obtain necessary approvals&lt;br&gt;- Solicit bids&lt;br&gt;- Monitor construction&lt;br&gt;- Certify end result</td>
<td>Add finished project to system</td>
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Creation of the SEWRPC Environmental Justice Task Force

- Recognition of a relatively sparse representation of minority group members on SEWRPC technical advisory committees
- Desire to better reflect minority group viewpoints in the planning programs
- Desire to strengthen the SEWRPC public involvement program with respect to Environmental Justice populations
- Desire for a structured oversight of SEWRPC efforts to meet the Federal Environmental Justice requirements

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