

**MINUTES**

**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

November 20, 2007

1:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

Daniel S. Schmidt, Chairman  
Charlene S. Brady, Vice-Chairman  
Thomas H. Buestrin  
Anita M. Faraone  
Susan S. Greenfield  
Gregory L. Holden  
William E. Johnson  
Mary A. Kacmarcik  
Robert W. Pitts  
David L. Stroik  
Paul G. Vrakas

Lee Holloway  
Michael J. Miklasevich  
Anselmo Villarreal

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson	Executive Director
Michael G. Hahn	Chief Environmental Engineer
Kenneth Schlager	Chief Telecommunications Engineer
Loretta Watson	Executive Secretary

**ROLL CALL**

Chairman Schmidt called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson noted for the record that Commissioners Holloway, Miklasevich, and Villarreal had asked to be excused. Mr. Schmidt noted that he had asked Commissioner Wirth to attend the meeting given that Mr. Wirth served on the Commission's Technical Advisory Committee dealing with telecommunications planning and that he has extensive knowledge of the telecommunications industry.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF AUGUST 30, 2007**

On a motion by Ms. Faraone, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the meeting of August 30, 2007, were approved as published.

## **CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **Sewer Service Area Plan for the Village of Wales and City of Waukesha**

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Evenson to review with the Committee a proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the Village of Wales and the City of Waukesha. A copy of the preliminary draft of a SEWRPC staff memorandum dated December 2007 concerning this matter had been provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Evenson indicated that by letter dated September 19, 2007, the Village of Wales, with concurrence from the City of Waukesha, requested that the Commission amend the Village of Wales portion of the Waukesha and environs sanitary sewer service area tributary to the City of Waukesha sewage treatment facility. That area is currently documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 100 (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), *Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the City of Waukesha and Environs*, dated March 1999, as amended. The purpose of this amendment would be to include within the planned sewer service area certain lands located outside the currently adopted sewer service area.

Mr. Evenson directed the Committee's attention to Map 1 of the memorandum. He indicated that the proposed amendment involves the addition of two areas. The first of these is located adjacent to the initially identified sewer service area in the central portion of the Village of Wales adopted in 2006. The current proposal would add 115 acres, including 92 acres of existing urban development, 6 acres identified as isolated natural resource area, and 17 acres of developable land. The existing urban development includes a mix of residential land (72 housing units) and commercial, industrial and institutional land—all currently served by individual onsite sewage disposal systems or holding tanks. The limited developable land in the area would accommodate infill residential, commercial, and industrial uses. The sewer service area, as expanded, would match the sewer service area boundary set forth in a 2007 agreement between the Village of Wales and the City of Waukesha.

Mr. Evenson indicated that the other area proposed to be added to the sewer service area is an 80-acre site located north of USH 18 in the Town of Delafield, between the Village of Wales and City of Waukesha. The site is owned by the Kettle Moraine School District, which currently maintains a small community center in the southwestern portion of the site. A total of 53 acres of the site has been identified as primary or secondary environmental corridor, consisting of wetlands, woodlands, and farmed floodplains that may be expected to revert to more natural conditions in the years ahead. The developable portion of the site is expected to accommodate a new school.

Mr. Evenson indicated that a public hearing on the proposed amendment was held in the Village of Wales on November 1, 2007. About 20 persons spoke regarding the proposed expansion of the sewer service area in the central portion of the Village. About one-third spoke in favor of the proposal and about one-third spoke against, while the others simply sought additional explanation and clarification of the proposal. Those speaking in opposition questioned whether there is currently a need for a sewerage system and voiced concerns about potential costs to property owners. Village officials at the hearing responded that the timing for the provision of sewer service to existing development would depend upon how well existing onsite systems continue to perform and that expanding the sewer service area now would enable the Village to remedy problems of failing private systems through a centralized sewerage system if and when that is needed.

Mr. Evenson indicated that the addition of existing developed areas in the sewer service area does not mandate that they be retrofit with sewers, but only enables such retrofitting, as needed, as determined in future detailed studies. He said that the proposed sewer service area is consistent with long-standing recommendations of the regional water quality management plan regarding the provision of sewer service to the Village of Wales. He indicated that, in the opinion of the staff, there is no need to revise the proposed amendment based upon the results of the public hearing.

Mr. Evenson stated that the Wales Village Board approved the sewer service area amendment, as presented at the public hearing, on November 5, 2007. He added that the City of Waukesha Common Council is scheduled to consider, and is expected to approve, the amendment at its meeting this evening (November 20<sup>th</sup>).

Mr. Evenson indicated that the staff recommends forwarding the proposed amendment to the Regional Planning Commission with a recommendation for approval, subject to a receiving a report of positive action by the City of Waukesha.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously, the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated December 2007 was approved and recommended to the Commission for adoption subject to a report at the December 5, 2007, Commission meeting relative to action by the City of Waukesha.

**CONSIDERATION OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 50, A REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE FOR THE GREATER MILWAUKEE WATERSHEDS, CHAPTERS 8 AND 12**

Chairman Schmidt called upon Mr. Hahn of the Commission staff to review with the members of the Committee materials included in Chapter 8, "Future Situation: Anticipated Growth and Change," and Chapter 12 "Summary," of the forthcoming report documenting an updated water quality management plan for the greater Milwaukee watersheds. A copy of Mr. Hahn's presentation slides is attached as Exhibit A.

Following Mr. Hahn's presentation, a discussion ensued. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Vrakas, Mr. Hahn indicated that the Commission's Advisory Committee unanimously supported the approach taken in the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District service area relative to the relationship between estimated build-out population levels by individual sewersheds and the Commission forecast of population for the year 2020 for the MMSD composite service area. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Greenfield, Mr. Evenson indicated that the MMSD planning area, established about 50 years ago, does extend beyond the subcontinental divide in portions of the Cities of New Berlin and Muskego. From a water resource management point of view, he said, if Lake Michigan water is supplied to development west of the subcontinental divide and is accompanied by return flow through the MMSD system, the consensus of utility managers is that while some water is lost to evaporation, greater amounts are gained through groundwater infiltration, with the net result being a water gain in the Lake Michigan Basin. In response to another inquiry by Ms. Greenfield, Mr. Hahn indicated that there are indeed measurable goals for improving stream and lake water quality in the recommended water quality management plan and that the plan calls for extensive water quality monitoring to determine whether or not the goals are being met over time. Ms. Greenfield commented that from a public information point of view, it would be useful in the future to provide a simple summary of the measurable water quality improvement goals in the report. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Stroik, Mr. Hahn reviewed the alternatives evaluated in the planning process relative to operation by MMSD of the deep tunnel storage system. Mr. Hahn indicated that the

plan recommends that the MMSD staff incrementally improve over time their strategy for reserving tunnel storage volume for separate sewer service overflows, the goal being to not waste tunnel storage capacity and help minimize overall sewer overflow coming from the separate sewer service area or the combined sewer service area. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Greenfield, Mr. Hahn indicated that the recommended plan does call for the identification of important groundwater recharge areas and the ultimate protection of such areas in order to enhance groundwater supply. Mr. Evenson indicated that the forthcoming regional water supply plan will provide more definitive information about groundwater recharge areas and lay out more specific proposals for protecting the most important of those areas.

At the end of the discussion, on a motion by Ms. Faraone, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously, Chapter 8, "Future Situation: Anticipated Growth and Change," and Chapter 12, "Summary," of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 50 were approved for publication and the entire updated water quality management plan for the greater Milwaukee watersheds set forth in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 50, *A Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update for the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds* recommended to the Commission for adoption.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 53, A REGIONAL BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN**

Chairman Schmidt then called upon Mr. Kenneth Schlager of the Commission staff to review with the members of the Committee materials included in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 53, *A Regional Broadband Telecommunications Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*, including Chapter 1, "Introduction," Chapter 2, "Basic Principles and Concepts", Chapter 3, "Objectives, Principles, and Standards", Chapter 4, "Inventory Findings-Background Conditions", Chapter 5, "Telecommunications Broadband Infrastructure Inventory Findings", Chapter 6, "Telecommunications Broadband Performance Inventory Findings", Chapter 7, "Design of Alternative Regional Broadband Telecommunications Plan", Chapter 8, "Alternative Plan Comparison and Evaluation and Selection of A Recommended Plan", Chapter 9, "Plan Implementation", and Chapter 10, "Summary". Mr. Schlager then delivered a presentation attendant to this new plan document. A copy of Mr. Schlager's presentation slides is attached as Exhibit B.

A brief discussion then ensued. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Vrakas, Mr. Schlager indicated that while the private sector telecommunications services provider representatives on the Committee came to understand that the Commission had a role to play in terms of telecommunications planning, nearly all voted against the plan at the end. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Pitts, Mr. Evenson indicated that Commission activities in future years will focus entirely on helping county and local governments with follow up work to implement the plan recommendations, noting that under a contract with Kenosha County, work is now getting underway to demonstrate the technical feasibility of a broadband wireless network to serve public sector functions throughout that County.

Following that discussion, on a motion by Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Ms. Faraone, and carried unanimously, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 53 were approved for publication and the regional broadband telecommunications plan for southeastern Wisconsin set forth therein recommended to the Commission for adoption.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT OF THE COMMISSION 2008 OVERALL WORK PROGRAM**

Chairman Schmidt noted that copies of the draft for the Commission's 2008 Overall Work Program (OWP) had been provided to all Committee members for review prior to the meeting. He asked Mr. Evenson to briefly review the document with the Committee.

Mr. Evenson then led the Committee through a review of the Overall Work Program, calling particular attention to several major projects identified in the document. These major projects included special environmental assessments, the forthcoming regional housing plan, short-range transit planning, a new transportation improvement program, county jurisdictional highway system planning, completion of the regional water supply plan, flood hazard mapping work efforts, and the preparation of multijurisdictional comprehensive plans.

He then called attention to Table 11-10, which sets forth a budget summary for all of the projects included in the Overall Work Program, pointing out, in particular, where that funding summary differed from the Commission's adopted 2008 budget. Overall, he said, the work program calls for a level of effort very close to that envisioned when the 2008 budget was approved in June.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. Evenson commented that the work program was reviewed by representatives of the Federal and State transportation funding agencies at an intergovernmental agency staff meeting held on October 2, 2007. The changes suggested by representatives of those agencies are reflected in the document presented to the Committee.

There being no questions or comments, it was moved by Ms. Faraone, seconded by Ms. Greenfield, and carried unanimously, to recommend approval of the 2008 Overall Work Program to the Commission.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Evenson reported that there were no announcements or correspondence to be brought to the attention of the Committee.

Ms. Greenfield asked that the Committee be briefed on activities relative to the implementation of commuter rail service in the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee corridor. Mr. Evenson indicated that the recently adopted State Budget Bill for the 2007-2009 biennial period failed to authorize the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority to undertake the desired commuter rail service and further failed to provide that body with an enhanced local funding source to support that service. The budget did contain, he said, additional State funds to help in continuing the advanced planning for these services and to begin preliminary engineering. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Vrakas, Mr. Evenson indicated that while it would be possible for the KRM initiative to advance in a separate legislative action, most observers see that as highly unlikely. Mr. Pitts suggested that the present minimum mark-up requirement attendant to gasoline sales be repealed and that, in effect, the assumed reduction in retailer profit be captured for use in supporting public transit. In response to a comment by Mr. Vrakas, Mr. Evenson indicated that it will indeed take strong support by the business communities from throughout the Region to properly address long-standing local funding problems attendant to the provision of mass transit services. Mr. Evenson went on to indicate that the Milwaukee-7 Economic Council is beginning to focus its attention on this important matter. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Greenfield, Mr. Evenson indicated that the Federal Transit Administration will not move the KRM project forward without legislation that empowers the RTA to provide such service and provides the RTA with an appropriate dedicated local funding source to sustain the service over time.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Ms. Faraone, seconded by Mr. Holden, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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(Planning and Research Committee)  
November 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson  
Deputy Secretary

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