

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 29, 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
William R. Drew, Vice-Chairman
James T. Dwyer
Adelene Greene
Michael J. Miklasevich
Allen L. Morrison (Alternate)
Daniel S. Schmidt
David L. Stroik
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Richard A. Hansen

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 Commissioner Hansen had asked to be excused. Mr. Buestrin noted that he had asked Mr. Morrison to attend the meeting as an alternate member of the Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2007, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on October 25, 2007, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. STROIK REPORTING

(Meeting of November 29, 2007)

Mr. Stroik 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. 22 and 23, extending over the period October 15, 2007, to November 11, 2007.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending November 11, 2007. With nearly 90 percent of the year completed, the projection continued to indicate a year end surplus of about \$195,000, although capital expenditures for automobiles and print shop equipment will impact that projection by year's end.
3. Received a report on employee enrollment in the 2008 group medical insurance program. A total of 59 Commission employees elected to obtain medical insurance coverage, paying at a minimum 20 percent of the premium cost. Nine Commission employees declined medical insurance coverage. The adopted 2008 budget of about \$734,000 for medical insurance premiums will be adequate.
4. Completed its review of the Commission Personnel Regulations, focusing on those sections of the Regulations dealing with miscellaneous policies. A few minor changes attendant to the Appendices of the Regulations were approved, thereby completing work on this project.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Ms. Greene, 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 two contracts reported on the table, noting that the first contract involves work to prepare a river basin protection plan for the Lower Mukwonago River in Walworth and Waukesha Counties. This work is being undertaken at the request of the Phantom Lake Management District. The second contract involves preparation of a separate plan document for the City of Racine that will draw material from the multijurisdictional Racine County comprehensive planning work now underway. Both of these contracts, he said, extend into 2009.

There being no discussion, on a motion by Mr. Miklasevich, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the report relative to the contracts was accepted and placed on file (copy of report attached to Official Minutes).

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AS THE DESIGNATED RECIPIENT OF FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FUNDS UNDER THE JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE AND NEW FREEDOM PROGRAMS

Chairman Buestrin asked that the Committee consider Resolution 2007-18 pertaining to an endorsement of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation as the designated recipient of certain Federal Transit related funds allocated to the Milwaukee Urbanized Area. He asked Mr. Evenson to brief the Committee on this matter.

Mr. Evenson noted that relatively recently Federal legislation had resulted in the direct allocation to the Milwaukee Urbanized Area of certain Federal Transit funds in two categories. The first category is under the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program and involves the allocation of about \$750,000 annually. The second category is under the New Freedom Program and consists of an allocation of about \$350,000 annually. Under Federal law, the Governor must designate the recipients of such funds. That recipient becomes directly responsible for the expenditure of those funds and for ensuring that all Federal

requirements are met in so doing. Mr. Evenson recalled that some time ago the Commission had convened a meeting of interested Milwaukee area transit agencies and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to discuss the best way of meeting this new Federal requirement. None of the existing transit operators in the Milwaukee area desired to undertake the responsibilities as the designated recipient of these two categories of funds even though their transit agencies may desire to seek access to some of the available funds. Mr. Evenson indicated that, he too, declined on behalf of the Commission to volunteer to become the designated recipient of such funds, owing to the very large responsibilities placed upon the recipients and the lack of any administrative funding to cover the costs of meeting those responsibilities. Both the Commission staff and the transit operators at the meeting encouraged the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to become the designated recipient because it is already such a recipient for other parts of the State and has the administrative staff to undertake these responsibilities.

Mr. Evenson reported that the Department has now agreed to accept the role as the designated recipient of Federal funds that are allocated to the Milwaukee Urbanized Area provided that the Commission assist the Department in conducting the competitive project selection process required under each program. He noted that the Commission staff was willing to accept that responsibility and, indeed, had already been performing that function prior to the allocation of funds to the Milwaukee Urbanized Area. Accordingly, he said, the Commission staff supports the subject resolution which would notify the Governor that the Commission supports the position of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation that it become the designated recipient of Federal funds allocated to the Milwaukee Urbanized Area under the Job Access and Reverse Commute and new Freedom Programs.

Following a brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Miklasevich, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, Resolution 2007-18 was approved (copy attached to Official Minutes).

WORK PROGRAM REPORTS

Mr. Evenson reported that with the completion of the major plan update to the regional water quality management plan for the Milwaukee area watersheds, Commission staff resources will begin to focus more on completing commitments in the Milwaukee area attendant to the updating of flood hazard area maps and assistance to communities in securing approval of the Federal Emergency Management Agency of those maps, including amendment of Federal flood insurance maps as required. This body of work, he said, is extremely important to affected individual landowners who are faced with paying flood insurance premiums of as much as \$100.00 per month. He reported that the City of Milwaukee recently asked that work be fast-tracked in the Wilson Park Creek area of the Kinnickinnic River watershed where the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District has completed stream channel modifications that have the effect of reducing the floodplain and removing certain homes therefrom. The Alderman from that district, Terry Witkowski, has asked that the Commission turn its attention to this area as soon as possible so that certain of his constituents can be relieved of the flood insurance premium payment burden. Mr. Evenson indicated that the Commission staff would do so as early as possible in 2008, but that it likely will take two full years to clear the backlog of such work in the greater Milwaukee area.

Mr. Evenson also reported that work will shortly begin on the study design for updating the regional housing plan. He indicated that he had been in discussions with representatives of both the building industry and organizations that advocate for good housing and that he hoped that a draft study design would be ready early next year. At that time, he said, he would approach the Commission with a request to create a new advisory committee to review the study design and guide the resultant work effort.

Mr. Evenson then reported that the public comment record period has closed on the proposal by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to amend the regional transportation program in a manner that would permit the Department to potentially proceed with reconstruction of the Waukesha County Trunk

Highway P Interchange with IH-94 should the developers of the Pabst Farms proceed with construction of a major new retail center at that site beginning next year. He noted that both Waukesha County and the City of Oconomowoc had agreed to fiscally support the project if an appropriate development plan does indeed move forward in the near future. The Commission staff, he said, is now completing a draft of responses to the comments placed in the public record on this matter, noting that all of the comments were negative in nature. It is likely, he continued, that the Commission's advisory committee on this matter will be convened in the near future and asked to review the comments and the Commission staff responses thereto, and upon such review to make a recommendation to the Commission. When that process is completed, he said, the matter will be ready for consideration by the Executive Committee. Mr. Dwyer noted that the proposed project is supported by Waukesha County, but that support is contingent upon the development of an appropriate type of retail center on the site at the Pabst Farms. From the County's perspective, he said, the initiative by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is financially attractive given WisDOT's policy of requiring a local cost share on these types of projects. The County has some concerns, however, that the cost share policy is being fairly and uniformly applied throughout the State. Mr. Evenson noted that the same cost share policy is proposed to be applied in conjunction with a new interchange along IH-94 South at Rawson Avenue in the City of Oak Creek.

Finally, Mr. Evenson reported that the Commission's Environmental Justice Task Force had met earlier in the week and had discussed a number of topics. He asked that Commissioner Greene brief the Committee on the matters discussed. In response, Ms. Greene noted that the recent meeting of the Task Force was attended by 11 of the 15 members, a better turn out than the initial Task Force meeting. She noted that the Task Force had initial discussions concerning three items, and that the group ultimately will suggest additional efforts by Commission staff in connection with outreach to minority and low-income groups; that the Commission selection process of advisory committee members be modified to ensure that more minorities serve on committees; and that, depending upon forthcoming recommendations in the regional water supply plan, the planning effort include evaluations of the potential impacts on minority and low-income communities of any such recommendations. She indicated that all three topics will be maintained on the Task Force's agenda and that she was surprised at the amount of discussion, particularly relative to the water supply planning effort. She noted that the Task Force has determined to meet every other month in 2008 and to rotate its meetings to several locations in the Region.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary