

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 24, 2008

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,
James T. Dwyer
Adelene Greene
Allen L. Morrison (Alternate)
Daniel S. Schmidt
David L. Stroik
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Richard A. Hansen, Vice-Chairman
Michael J. Miklasevich

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 Hansen and Miklasevich 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 DECEMBER 20, 2007, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Wirth, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on December 20, 2007, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. STROIK REPORTING

(Meeting of January 24, 2008)

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 No. 26 and Year 2008 No. 1, extending over the period December 10, 2007, to January 6, 2008.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending January 6, 2008. That review focused on the revenue estimates for 2008. Nearly all of the service agreement revenue, as well as most of the Federal and State revenues, needed to support the 2008 work program have been secured. Certain funds expected from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Federal Transit Administration have not yet been secured. However, there is no reason to believe that these funds will not be forthcoming.
3. Received a report that the Commission staff continues to evaluate alternatives to upgrading the color copier equipment in the Commission's print shop. Production levels during 2007 on the existing equipment tended to be very high given the rated throughput capacity of that equipment, leading to higher than anticipated operating costs. The staff has not yet reached a conclusion as to the particular type and brand of equipment that would best meet Commission multi-color copier needs. The copier equipment is used to produce an average of nearly 90,000 copies per month.
4. Received a report that the Commission paid an amount of \$11,610 in lieu of taxes on the Rockwood Drive building, such payment going to the City of Pewaukee. This represented an increase of about \$150 over 2007.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, 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 eight contracts reported on the table, noting that three of the contracts deal with county surveyor activities in Milwaukee, Kenosha, and Walworth Counties, respectively, and that two of the contracts deal with ongoing mapping services provided to Walworth County. Of the remaining three contracts, one involves a lake management plan updating effort for Eagle Spring Lake in Waukesha County, one relates to the Commission's arrangement with the University of Wisconsin Extension whereby an agent is assigned to work with the Commission on a full-time basis, and one relates to funding by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources of water quality planning efforts during 2007.

There being no discussion, on a motion by Mr. Morrison, 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).

WORK PROGRAM REPORTS

Mr. Evenson reported that a meeting is being scheduled for February 7, 2008, of the Commission's three advisory committees that deal with the regional transportation improvement program. The committees will consider a number of amendments to the program, including the amendment that would move up the potential construction activities at the CTH P interchange with IH 94 in Waukesha County to as early as 2008. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Stroik, Mr. Evenson indicated that when it comes to the transportation improvement program, the Commission's role is administrative in nature and limited to determining for the Federal government whether or not a particular transportation project is consistent

with the recommendations contained in the regional transportation plan and whether or not a particular project or set of projects conforms to Federal air quality planning requirements as reflected in the State of Wisconsin Air Quality Implementation Plan. Assuming that there are positive responses to these two matters, Mr. Evenson continued, the Commission routinely includes such projects in the transportation improvement program. It is not within the Commission's realm of responsibility, he said, to second guess a project construction timing decision made by a plan implementation agency with respect to a given transportation project. With respect to the CTH P/IH 94 interchange project, Mr. Dwyer briefed the Committee members on the history of the development of the project and the three-party agreement put in place to fund the project, the three parties being the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Waukesha County, and the City of Oconomowoc. In addition, he noted, the Pabst Farms developer is contributing financially to the project.

Mr. Evenson also reported that the Commission staff is striving to meet pending deadlines attendant to the county level comprehensive plans being prepared for the multi-governmental partnerships created in Ozaukee and Washington Counties for this purpose. Every effort is being made, he said, to have these county-level plans ready for formal consideration by the respective county boards of supervisors at their April 2008 meetings. Plan documents for the communities that are participating in the county-based partnerships will follow in due course, with those two projects to be substantially completed by mid-year.

Mr. Evenson then noted that distribution of the Commission's most recent regional plan document, SEWRPC Planning Report No. 53, *A Regional Broadband Telecommunications Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*, has been completed. To date, he said, one community has responded, that being the City of Milwaukee. He reported that he and Kenneth J. Schlager, the Commission's telecommunications consulting engineer, had appeared before the Public Works Committee of the Milwaukee Common Council on Wednesday, January 23, 2008. Mr. Evenson reported that the Commission's recommendations attendant to the establishment over time of a regional wireless network based on internet protocol to serve primarily public communications functions was well received by the members of the Committee.

Mr. Evenson then reported that work is nearing completion on an updated jurisdictional highway plan for Washington County. The Commission staff is working with an advisory committee that includes representatives from all municipalities in the County, and that committee hopes to complete its work next month. Once that plan is formally endorsed by the Washington County Board of Supervisors, it will be ready for consideration by the Commission as an amendment to the adopted regional transportation plan.

Finally, Mr. Evenson indicated that he expects this spring to put together an informal group of county land information personnel and Federal and State agency personnel to structure an orthophotography program for the Region to be undertaken in 2010. One of the major issues to be addressed by the group, he said, is whether or not the standard regional product should be improved from the 12-inch pixel product produced in 2005 to a 6-inch pixel product. This will significantly increase program costs. However, both Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties contributed extra funds to obtain the 6-inch pixel product in 2005 and there is growing demand for that product to be made available over the entire Region. By addressing this issue early this year, he said, the counties will have two budget years available to help fund whatever product comes out of the group discussion. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Wirth, Mr. Evenson indicated that while it would be desirable to obtain orthophotography based upon a three-inch pixel, budgetary considerations effectively rule that out. In response to a follow up question by Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Evenson indicated that the conventional 12-inch pixel project for the Region would have a cost of about \$500,000, and that the cost would about double to obtain a six-inch pixel product over the entire Region.

Mr. Drew then commented that the Commission consultants working on the 30th Street Corridor effort have made very good progress to date, but that completion of the effort was delayed for a period of time owing to the transition at the chief level in the Milwaukee Police Department; With the new Milwaukee Police Chief now in place, Mr. Drew said, will resume, with the project heading toward a completion date this coming spring.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson reported that the Commission is a non-financial co-sponsor of workshop entitled, “Knocking at the Gates, An Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop”, scheduled for Saturday, February 16, 2008, in Milwaukee. The Commission lake management staff has been working with others from the lakes community in structuring and sponsoring this workshop.

Mr. Evenson also indicated that the Commission will, on a non-financial basis, co-sponsor with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District the fifth annual water quality conference. This conference will be held on April 28, 2008, also in Milwaukee.

Mr. Evenson announced that, after conferring with Commissioner Schmidt as Chair of the Planning and Research Committee, that the Planning and Research Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for February 19, 2008, will be rescheduled for 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 2008, just ahead of the Commission March quarterly meeting. A formal notice to this effect will be sent shortly. The reason for the change relates to the fact that there are only two very minor sewer service area plan amendments to be considered by the Committee.

Mr. Evenson reported that he, Commission Chairman Buestrin, and the Commission’s Deputy Director Kenneth R. Yunker, recently met with Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary Frank Busalacchi. Among the items discussed at the meeting, he said, was the set of problems associated with the application of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation cost-share policy in southeastern Wisconsin. Mr. Evenson noted that the policy effectively operates to yield at times poor results, citing the Greenfield Avenue project (STH 59) now underway in Waukesha County where the failure of one local unit of government to contribute its assigned cost-share has led to the creation of a “bottleneck” type of situation in the newly reconstructed facility. At other times, Mr. Evenson continued, the cost-sharing policy effectively results in no reconstruction project being undertaken, citing the example of the proposed reconstruction of STH 83 between IH 94 and the STH 16 in Waukesha County. Finally, Mr. Evenson continued, application of the cost-share policy in southeastern Wisconsin has led some local officials to query as to whether or not that policy is being applied uniformly throughout the State. To date, WisDOT has not provided any information that such is the case. Mr. Evenson indicated that Secretary Busalacchi appreciated the feedback being given and said that he would follow up to review the cost-share policy.

Finally, Mr. Evenson indicated that the Commission staff desires to post on the Commission’s website, photographs and brief biographies of all Commissioners. This material has been prepared in draft form and is ready for Commissioner review. He asked that all Commissioners review these materials and let Ms. Watson know of any needed adjustments.

-5-
(Executive Committee)
January 24, 2008

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

PCE/lw
##134183 v1 - ExeJan08Min
Attachments