

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 28, 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
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, Vice-Chairman
William R. Drew

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson
Loretta Watson

Executive Director
Executive Secretary

Guests:

Scott M. Lesser

Vice President-Development, Pabst Farms

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 and 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 JANUARY 24, 2008, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on January 24, 2008, were approved as published.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. STROIK REPORTING
(Meeting of February 28, 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 three financial reporting periods: Year 2008 Nos. 2, 3 and 4, extending over the period January 7, 2008, to, to February 17, 2008.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending February 17, 2008. With about 15 percent of the year completed, the projections indicated a year end surplus of nearly \$400,000, a figure that is expected to significantly decline as the year goes on.
3. Received a report that the Commission recently took delivery on two replacement vehicles for the Commission's fleet that were ordered late in 2007. The two vehicles consist of a Chevrolet Impala and a Ford Crown Victoria.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Morrison, 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 three contracts reported on the table. One of the contracts involves the continued provision of county surveyor services to Waukesha County during 2008. A second involves providing staff support to the Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development in conjunction with stormwater management and shoreland/floodplain development issues. The third contract provides technical support to the Burlington Chamber of Commerce in statistically analyzing survey data obtained by that organization.

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

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO 2007-2010 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Evenson noted that the Committee members had been provided in advance of the meeting copies of Resolution 2008-01 which, if approved, would amend the 2007-2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program. He asked that the Committee consider Resolution 2008-01, attached to which are exhibits attendant to a total of 39 transportation project. A wide variety of projects are included in this particular amendment, reflecting both new projects and revisions to projects that had previously been included in the program. He called attention in particular to the first project on the list involving a study of the establishment of a new interstate highway in Wisconsin between Green Bay and Milwaukee over U.S. Highway 41. That study, he said, is intended to identify projects that would upgrade the existing USH 41 freeway to interstate standards. Federal legislation is already in place that authorizes the establishment of such a new interstate highway.

He then called attention to a project set forth on Exhibit P involving the reconstruction of an existing interchange between Waukesha County Trunk Highway P and IH 94 at the eastern limit of the Pabst Farms development project in the Town of Summit and City of Oconomowoc. He recalled that Commissioner Dwyer had previously briefed the Committee on the intergovernmental agreement that is presently in place between the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Waukesha County, and the City of Oconomowoc that provides for a jointly funded project at this location, with the developer of the Pabst Farms also providing funds to support the project. He then called attention to the Record of Public Comments concerning this particular project and to the Commission staff's response thereto. He noted that all of this material had been presented to the Commission's advisory committees that help oversee the development of the Transportation Improvement Program. While the committees approved all of the projects included in the exhibits being considered at this time, he noted that the City of Milwaukee representatives had voted against including the construction aspects of the proposed CTH P project in the TIP given uncertainties associated with the proposed regional shopping mall development at the Pabst Farms and with more pressing project needs in other portions of the urbanized area. Mr. Evenson indicated that when this matter was being considered by the Commission's advisory committees, he cautioned against pursuing a course of action which would effectively have the Commission substitute its judgment attendant to the timing of implementation of a given project for the judgment being made by the plan implementation agency, namely in this case the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The interchange project, he recalled, is consistent with the regional transportation plan and will eliminate a half-directional interchange that is confusing to the driving public.

A discussion then ensued. During that discussion, Mr. Schmidt indicated that he appreciated being provided all of the comments attendant to this particular matter and the Commission staff responses thereto. He said that he found this material very enlightening. Mr. Dwyer concurred, complimenting the Commission staff on the way in which everything was put together and the professional nature of the responses to every concern that was raised. Mr. Dwyer then called attention to an error on page 7 of the subject comment document, noting that the reference should be to a westbound on-ramp rather than to a westbound off-ramp. Mr. Evenson agreed with Mr. Dwyer's comment and indicated that the document would be corrected before being transmitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Following that discussion, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Wirth, and carried unanimously, Resolution 2008-01 was approved (copy attached to Official Minutes).

WORK PROGRAM REPORTS

Mr. Evenson indicated that he had no work program reports at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson reported that the Commission staff, working with other groups and organizations, is sponsoring the first of an anticipated series of plan commission workshops for local officials in the Region. The initial workshop has been scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on March 19, 2008, in the Racine County Ives Grove Complex Auditorium. In response to an observation by Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Evenson indicated that he would follow up with staff to be sure that the brochure announcing the workshop was properly sent to all chief county and local elected officials in the Region.

Mr. Evenson also reported that Dr. Donald M. Reed of the Commission staff has been named by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a technical expert to represent that agency on a wetland panel to review and update a regional wetland plant list. The selection of Dr. Reed recognizes his outstanding reputation as a wetland scientist working in the Midwest and reflects well on the work of the Commission in this subject area.

Chairman Buestrin then reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Evenson formally advising the Commission of his decision to leave the Commission's employ at the end of the year. He then read that letter in full (copy attached to Official Minutes).

Mr. Buestrin noted that this decision did not come as a surprise, Mr. Evenson having indicated to the Commission over two years ago that it would be unlikely that he would seek a further extension of his employment contract. Mr. Buestrin then noted that he would be reporting Mr. Evenson's decision to the full Commission at the Quarterly meeting on March 5, 2008, as a part of his Executive Committee report. He indicated that, assuming he had the support of the Executive Committee, it would be his intention at that time to announce that the Executive Committee intends to use the same procedure in the selection of a new Executive Director as was followed in 1996 when Dr. Kurt W. Bauer resigned. Under that procedure, the Executive Committee, having the power to act for the Commission in all matters except the adoption of a budget and the adoption of regional plan elements, would select and appoint a new Executive Director in as expeditious a manner as reasonable. In a brief discussion that followed, it was the consensus of the Committee to support Mr. Buestrin's proposed course of action with the understanding that the Executive Committee would begin by determining the procedure to be followed in selecting a successor. Mr. Dwyer indicated that he will advocate a selection process that would include a broad search for suitable candidates.

Following that discussion, on a motion by Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and carried unanimously, Mr. Evenson's letter was accepted with regret.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Ms. Greene, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

PCE/lw
#135202 v1 - ExeFeb08Min
Attachments