

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

August 19, 2008

1:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

Daniel S. Schmidt, Chairman
Susan S. Greenfield
Gregory L. Holden
William E. Johnson
John M. Jung
Mary A. Kacmarcik
Robert W. Pitts
David L. Stroik
George A. Torres
Paul G. Vrakas
John F. Weishan, Jr. (representing
Lee Holloway)

Thomas H. Buestrin
Anita M. Faraone
Michael J. Miklasevich

Absent

Anselmo Villarreal

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson	Executive Director
Kenneth R. Yunker	Deputy Director
Robert P. Biebel	Special Projects 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 Buestrin, Faraone, and Miklasevich had asked to be excused. Chairman Schmidt noted that this was the first Committee meeting for two new Commissioners, Messrs. Jung and Torres. Mr. Evenson recalled that he had informed the full Commission at the June Annual meeting that Commissioner Lee Holloway has asked Governor Doyle to replace him with Supervisor John Weishan, noting that in this interim period Mr. Holloway has asked Mr. Weishan to represent him at Commission meetings. He then welcomed Mr. Weishan and indicated that he should feel free to fully participate in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2008

On a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the meeting of June 18, 2008, were approved as published.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sewer Service Area Plan for the City of New Berlin

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 City of New Berlin. A copy of the preliminary draft of a SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated September 2008 concerning this matter had been provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Evenson indicated that by letter dated June 11, 2008, the City of New Berlin requested that the Commission amend the New Berlin sanitary sewer service area tributary to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. That area is currently documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 157, *Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the City of New Berlin, Waukesha County, Wisconsin*, dated November 1987, as amended. The purpose of the amendment would be to include within the planned sewer service area certain lands located immediately adjacent to, but outside, the currently adopted sewer service area.

Mr. Evenson directed the attention of the Committee members to Map 1 of the memorandum document, noting that two areas are proposed to be added to the sewer service area. The northerly area encompasses four acres, including an existing single-family home--it being envisioned that this site would be redeveloped for light industrial use. The southerly area encompasses 41 acres, including the recently constructed BuySeasons facility, which currently relies on a holding tank, and vacant land that would be available for expansion of the BuySeasons facility. Mr. Evenson noted that BuySeasons, a successful internet retailer of seasonal goods, had desired to build its new facility in the Menomonee River Valley in the City of Milwaukee. Negotiations on site acquisition with the City of Milwaukee, however, ultimately fell apart and the BuySeasons owner determined to construct a new facility in New Berlin. The southerly site also includes three acres that have been identified as part of an isolated natural resource area and a 0.5-acre wetland.

Mr. Evenson noted that the proposal was taken to public hearing on August 11, 2008. Two New Berlin residents indicated that they are opposed to the amendment. One indicated that the proposed light industrial use for the northerly site is inconsistent with the City plan. The other expressed concern about the expansion of light industry in the City in general. A representative of Towne Realty, which requested that the northerly site be added to the sewer service area, spoke in favor of the amendment as related to the northerly site. The city planner noted that the City is currently considering a petition to change the zoning of the northerly site from residential to light industrial.

Mr. Evenson said that the expansion of the sewer service area as called for in the proposed amendment would be in conformance with regional plans. He indicated that the schedule for City Council consideration of the proposed amendment had been changed, with the City not expected to consider action on the amendment until September 23, 2008. Accordingly, he continued, it would be appropriate for the Planning and Research Committee to lay this matter over until its next meeting.

A discussion then ensued. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Greenfield, Mr. Evenson indicated that wastewater from this portion of New Berlin flows to Lake Michigan through the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District conveyance and treatment system. In answer to a question by Mr. Stroik, Mr. Evenson indicated that holding tanks, particularly in these types of development situations are temporary measures, it being uneconomical to truck relatively large amounts of waste for a long period of time. In answer to an inquiry by Ms. Greenfield, Mr. Evenson indicated that under State law, except in very rare instances, operators of holding tank wastewater trucking services are free to dispose of the wastes at any public wastewater treatment facility willing to accept such wastes or, in some cases, use land disposal methodologies. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Vrakas, Mr. Evenson indicated that the BuySeasons industrial facility is part of a larger industrial park in the City of New Berlin.

After a brief discussion relative to parliamentary procedure, on a motion by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Ms. Greenfield, and carried unanimously, action relative to the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated September 2008 concerning this matter was postponed until the next Committee meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 52, A REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, CHAPTER 8

Chairman Schmidt noted that the Committee continues to review materials being developed to document the forthcoming regional water supply plan. He then called upon Mr. Robert P. Biebel of the Commission staff to review with the members of the Committee material included in Chapter 8, "Alternative Plans: Description and Evaluation," of the forthcoming planning report. Mr. Biebel then delivered a presentation attendant to that chapter. A copy of Mr. Biebel's presentation slides is attached as Exhibit A.

During Mr. Biebel's presentation, the following questions and comments were made and addressed relating to the material presented:

1. Mr. Evenson noted that attendant to all of the alternatives described by Mr. Biebel was a water conservation element. Mr. Biebel then briefed the Committee members on the substance of that conservation element, noting that more aggressive recommendations are being directed at communities that rely on groundwater for supply and that are facing significant capital expenditures for additional supply facilities during the planning period. Mr. Biebel indicated that these recommendations were based in part upon actual experience in Waterloo, Ontario, but stopped short of, for example, recommending a subsidized toilet replacement program for the majority of the utilities. At most, he said, the plans assume a 10 percent demand reduction owing to conservation measures.
2. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Greenfield relative to a recommendation pertaining to groundwater recharge at new construction sites, Mr. Biebel noted that current State law basically requires that stormwater be infiltrated on new development sites such that after development about 60-90 percent of the recharge that occurred before development would continue to occur depending upon the type of land use development involved. Mr. Biebel noted, however, that there are provisions in these regulations that likely will result in a lesser level of infiltration in many portions of the Region owing to soil conditions.
3. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Weishan, Mr. Biebel indicated that development activity in the Region is relatively modest when considered on an annual basis. He noted that truly new growth in the Region between 2005 and 2035 might add as much as 15 percent to water supply demand. Each of the alternative plans, however, also recommends that significant amounts of existing development now served by private individual property wells be converted over time to public water supply systems, in part for fire suppression purposes.
4. In response to a question by Mr. Johnson, Mr. Biebel indicated that the loss of breweries and other large water use industries in Milwaukee has very significantly contributed to a lessening of water demand in Milwaukee County and is one of the primary reasons the City of Milwaukee has substantial excess capacity for water production.
5. Noting that Alternative Plan 1 relies heavily upon new shallow groundwater wells, Ms. Greenfield inquired as to whether the Pike and/or Root Rivers might be shallower in nature as a result. In response, Mr. Biebel noted that while shallow wells might reduce the amounts of groundwater flow directly into such rivers, water is eventually discharged to some of the receiving streams such as the Root River and Fox River from

wastewater treatment plants, and accordingly those streams would not be adversely affected in terms of depth. He noted, however, in some cases there would be a somewhat reduce flow and depth.

6. Referring to the alternative plan whereby Waukesha and communities west of the subcontinental divide would be served with Lake Michigan water accompanied by a return flow likely to either the Root River or Underwood Creek, Ms. Greenfield inquired as to whether the study will examine such return flow impacts on the biological integrity of the receiving stream system. In response, Mr. Biebel said that the effluent returned to such receiving waters is of a higher quality than the base flow in the stream systems and that there may well be positive impacts on stream biology. He noted, however, that these are very significant issues and will require in depth analysis prior to implementation of any such water supply proposal.
7. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Pitts, Mr. Biebel indicated that the entire study should be completed early in the first quarter of 2009.
8. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Weishan, Mr. Biebel indicated that a forthcoming chapter of the report will deal with cost and implementation responsibilities, but that in general those communities and ratepayers that need, for example, Lake Michigan supply will have to pay the full cost of obtaining that supply.
9. In response to a question by Mr. Pitts, Mr. Biebel indicated that any proposal to use Lake Michigan water in the Region would ensure through return flow provisions that there would be no net loss of water to Lake Michigan. He noted that there is no such control in the State of Illinois where that State is authorized to divert without return flow two billion gallons of Lake water a day.

At the end of that discussion and following a comment by Mr. Pitts complimenting Mr. Biebel on his presentation, on a motion by Mr. Vrakas, seconded by Ms. Greenfield, and carried unanimously, Chapter 8, "Alternative Plans: Description and Evaluation," of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 52 was approved for publication.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson indicated 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, on a motion by Ms. Greenfield, seconded by Mr. Vrakas, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

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