

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 25, 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
Daniel S. Schmidt
David L. Stroik
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

Richard A. Hansen, Vice-Chairman
James T. Dwyer
Adelene Greene
Michael J. Miklasevich

Staff:

Philip C. Evenson
Loretta Watson

Executive Director
Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Chairman Buestrin called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Mr. Evenson noted for the record that Commissioners Dwyer, Greene, Hansen, and Miklasevich had asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2008, MEETING

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, MR. STROIK REPORTING

(Meeting of September 25, 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 five financial reporting periods: Year 2008 Nos. 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19, extending over the period July 7, 2008, to September 14, 2008.

2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending September 14, 2008. With about three-fourths of the year completed, the projections indicated a year end surplus of about \$41,000, exclusive of income from interest and miscellaneous sales.
3. Received a report that the Wisconsin Department of Administration had informed the Commission that the 2007 audit report was sufficient for that Department's purposes and that there were no issues to be resolved.

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Mr. Drew, 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 four contracts prior to the meeting. Mr. Evenson then briefly reviewed the contract reported on the table, noting that two contracts -- those for coastal management and stream gaging program activities -- were annual contracts, the former to undertake a variety of work efforts in conjunction with the State's coastal management program and the latter involving the pass-through of funds from cooperating local agencies in the Region to the U.S. Geological Survey as cost-share in support of obtaining additional stream gaging data. That data, he said, is critical to the Commission's floodland management work program. A third contract involves the preparation of an aquatic plant management plan for Benet and Shangrila Lakes in the Town of Salem, Kenosha County. The fourth contract provides financial resources in support of the development of educational materials attendant to the installation of riparian buffers as recommended in the updated regional water quality management plan.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Wirth relative to the Lake Michigan Academy Project, Mr. Evenson said that the intended audience for the educational materials to be produced under that project consists of county and local plan commissioners and elected officials and riparian landowners. These are the people most in need of detailed information on the design and installation of buffer strips to help abate runoff pollution.

There being no further 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).

WORK PROGRAM REPORTS

Mr. Evenson reported that the Commission's Advisory Committee guiding the preparation of the regional water supply plan had reached agreement on a preliminary recommendation plan earlier in the week. That plan will now be summarized in a newsletter and be subjected to public review and comment in a number of different ways. Presentations are being scheduled with county-based intergovernmental cooperation councils and preparations are being made for a regional planning conference on this topic. These activities will consume the fourth quarter of the calendar year.

Mr. Wirth commented on the desirability of conveying to individuals beyond the southeastern Wisconsin region the important work being done by the Commission in the water supply area. He noted that regional planning commissions should have a presence at the annual conference of the Wisconsin Counties Association. Mr. Evenson agreed with Mr. Wirth, noting that the Commission and two other regional planning commissions from Wisconsin are making presentations in a breakout session at the October

2008 conference of the Wisconsin Counties Association in Wisconsin Dells. The Commission's Chief Environmental Engineer, Mr. Michael G. Hahn, will be presenting on detailed water quality planning and stormwater management work in southeastern Wisconsin.

Mr. Evenson also reported that the Commission is cooperating with the City of Milwaukee and personnel at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in efforts to ascertain climate change risks and impacts on coastal water resources. The Commission staff participates as a member of the Milwaukee Working Group on Climate Change Impacts. The objective of the research activities, for which a Federal grant is being sought, is to develop a conceptual framework for addressing climate change implications on water resources.

With respect to the regional housing study, Mr. Evenson reported that he intended to present a proposed slate of candidates for the Commission's Advisory Committee that will guide this matter at the October Executive Committee meeting. In the meantime, he said, the staff continues to develop a proposed scope-of-work.

Mr. Evenson then noted that under the Commission's work program, it advises the Southeastern Fox River Commission, an agency created under State law, about projects to improve water quality and the scenic, economic, and environmental assets of the Illinois-Fox River Basin. By law, the Commission holds a non-voting seat on that body and it was recently called to his attention that a reappointment of an individual to occupy that seat would be in order. He suggested that the Committee formally appoint the Commission's Chief Environmental Engineer, Michael G. Hahn, to that seat.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Hahn as the Commission's representative on the Southeastern Fox River Commission for a term expiring on April 15, 2011.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Evenson reported that he had been informed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin Foundation that it had filed, on behalf of the Milwaukee branch of the NAACP, a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Federal Contract Compliance, relative to hiring and employment practices at the Commission. He then distributed copies of the complaint to the Committee members (copy attached to Official Minutes).

In essence, he said, the complaint relates to Commission actions in selecting a new Executive Director and to the use of independent contractors rather than employees to perform certain functions, as well as to inadequacies in the Commission's affirmative action plan document and the failure of the Commission to take action fully consistent with that document. He indicated that the Commission staff would shortly be releasing an updated affirmative action plan document and will address technical inadequacies in so doing. One such inadequacy, he noted was the failure of the present document to explicitly identify as Commission policy its desire to promote from within in filling job openings whenever that is deemed by the Commission to be desirable. He indicated that he would keep the Committee members fully informed as the Federal government responds to this complaint.

Mr. Evenson announced that the Commission had received a copy of Walworth County Resolution No. 39-09/08, wherein the Board expressed its gratitude to former Commissioner Allen L. Morrison for his long and faithful service on behalf of Walworth County on the Regional Planning Commission.

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(Executive Committee)
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ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Evenson
Deputy Secretary

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Attachments