

MINUTES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

February 10, 2009

1:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Excused:

Committee Members:

Daniel S. Schmidt, Chairman
Gregory L. Holden, Vice-Chairman
William E. Johnson
John M. Jung
Robert W. Pitts
Nancy Russell
David L. Stroik

Anita M. Faraone
Susan S. Greenfield
Mary A. Kacmarcik
Michael J. Miklasevich
Anselmo Villarreal
Paul G. Vrakas
John F. Weishan, Jr. (representing Lee Holloway)

Absent

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Deputy Director
Donald M. Reed	Chief Biologist
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. Yunker noted for the record that Commissioners Faraone, Greenfield, Kacmarcik, Miklasevich, Villarreal, Vrakas, and Mr. Weishan (representing Lee Holloway) had asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2008

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

CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sewer Service Area Plan for the City of Muskego

Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Yunker to review with the Committee the proposed amendment to the adopted regional water quality management plan pertaining to the sanitary sewer service area for the City of Muskego. A copy of the preliminary draft of a SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated March 2009 concerning this matter had been provided to the Committee members for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Yunker indicated that by letter dated October 15, 2008, the City of Muskego requested that the Commission amend the Muskego sanitary sewer service area tributary to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. That area is currently documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 64 (3rd Edition), *Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the City of Muskego, Waukesha County, Wisconsin*, dated December 1997, 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. Yunker directed the attention of the Committee members to Map 1 of the memorandum document, noting that the area proposed to be added to the sewer service area encompasses 122 acres, including 72 acres of agricultural land; nine acres of existing urban land, including five existing single-family homes; and 41 acres of environmentally significant land. The City land use plan envisions that the developable portion of the subject area will be developed for residential use, potentially accommodating about 160 persons. The year 2020 MMSD facilities plan as it pertains to Muskego provides sufficient capacity to accommodate the proposed addition.

Mr. Yunker noted that the proposed amendment was taken to public hearing on January 27, 2009. There were no objections to the proposed amendment. The amendment was approved by the Muskego Common Council following the hearing. Mr. Yunker indicated that the Commission staff recommends approval of the proposed plan amendment as consistent with the regional land use plan.

A brief discussion then ensued. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Russell, Mr. Yunker stated that the environmentally significant areas within the sewer service area were isolated natural resource areas. He stated that the Commission recommends that communities consider preservation of those areas, but such preservation is at the communities' discretion.

Following that brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, the SEWRPC Staff Memorandum dated March 2009 was approved and recommended to the Commission for adoption.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION

Mr. Yunker then called upon Dr. Donald M. Reed of the Commission staff to review with the members of the Committee the amendment to The Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. Dr. Reed then delivered a presentation attendant to that document. A copy of Dr. Reed's presentation is attached as Exhibit A.

During Dr. Reed's presentation, the following questions and comments were made and addressed relating to the

materials presented:

1. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Holden regarding natural area sites which have expanded in area since the completion of the original plan, Dr. Reed responded that a good example was the Scuppernong River Habitat area in southwestern Waukesha County. Dr. Reed noted that the area has expanded from 109 acres to 1,284 acres due to management practices instituted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to restore the prairie area. Dr. Reed noted that the restored prairie area of 1,284 acres lies within a total area of over 3,500 acres owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
2. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Pitts, Dr. Reed noted that the Village of Pleasant Prairie has indeed permitted some development in the Chiwaukee Prairie area. The development has been permitted in an upland portion of that area which had already been platted and the Village determined that they could not protect that portion of the prairie from development.
3. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Russell, Dr. Reed stated that the plan does not recommend acquisition of the entire Rainbow Springs property, but there are several critical species habitat areas located within the Rainbow Springs property that were recommended in the plan update to be preserved and acquired.
4. Mr. Stroik suggested that photography of examples of natural areas and critical species habitat areas be added to the power point as it would enhance the understanding of the types of areas recommended to be preserved.
5. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Pitts, Dr. Reed noted that about four public meetings and hearings would be scheduled on the plan, most likely one in Kenosha and Racine Counties, one in Walworth County, one in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties, and one in Ozaukee and Washington Counties.

At the end of that discussion, on a motion by Mr. Holden, seconded by Ms. Russell, and carried unanimously, the first eight sections of the amendment to The Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin Region were approved for publication.

CONSIDERATION OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 23 (2ND EDITION), A JURISDICTIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM PLAN FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

Mr. Yunker noted that the Commission staff worked with Washington County staff to complete a review and update of the Washington County jurisdictional highway system plan. He stated that the plan was prepared under the guidance and direction of, and was unanimously approved by, the Washington County Jurisdictional Highway System Planning Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from each City, Village, and Town, the County, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration. He stated that the plan reviewed and refined the capacity improvements recommended under the year 2035 regional transportation plan. He added that the principal work under the plan was to review, and recommend changes to, the jurisdictional classification -- State, county, or local -- of the planned arterial street and highway system in the County. Mr. Yunker noted the recommended arterial capacity improvements, described the data considered in assessing street and highway jurisdictional classification changes -- including land use served and trip length -- and summarized the recommended jurisdictional classification changes. Mr. Yunker concluded that the Washington County Board of Supervisors had adopted the plan on December 9, 2008, on a 28 to 1 vote.

A brief discussion then ensued. In response to a question by Ms. Russell, Mr. Yunker stated that with one exception, the transfer of jurisdiction of a road between State, county, and local government requires the agreement by both the government seeking to transfer the road and the level of government which would be accepting the road. Mr. Yunker stated that the exception is with respect to a county highway located within a city or village. In that circumstance, the city or village can assume jurisdiction of the county highway within its corporate limits without approval by the county.

At the conclusion of that discussion, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Jung, and carried unanimously, SEWRPC Planning Report No. 23 (2nd Edition) was approved and recommended to the Commission for adoption.

CONSIDERATION OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 52, A REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, CHAPTER 9

Mr. Yunker noted that the Advisory Committee to the Commission on regional water supply planning continues to review materials being developed to document the forthcoming regional water supply plan, and that the materials for review now included Chapter 9, "Alternative Plan Comparative Evaluation and Selection of A Composite Plan for Further Consideration," of the forthcoming planning effort. Mr. Yunker then delivered a presentation attendant to that chapter. A copy of Mr. Yunker's presentation is attached as Exhibit B.

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

1. Mr. Jung noted that the preliminary recommended water study plan proposed a municipal well and reservoir storage facility in the City of Hartford. In response to his inquiry regarding the type of storage facility to be provided, Mr. Yunker noted that it would be a concrete below-ground storage facility associated with a new well proposed to be provided in the City of Hartford.
2. Mr. Johnson noted the historic reduction in the shallow aquifer in the City of Mequon and asked why those conditions unique to Mequon compared to the remainder of southeastern Wisconsin had occurred. Mr. Yunker responded that a number of factors have contributed to that drop in the shallow aquifer. The Mequon area has very little sand and gravel aquifer and, therefore, the shallow aquifer underlying Mequon is the dolomite aquifer. Also, the Mequon area had urban development served by sewer with private wells unlike other areas. In other areas, areas with private wells had treated wastewater returned to the underlying aquifer through septic tanks.
3. Mr. Jung noted that under the preliminary plan there would be some scattered areas throughout the Region where draw downs in the shallow aquifer were anticipated. Mr. Yunker stated that those draw downs were anticipated to be less than 20 feet in depth and were generally associated with existing and some proposed municipal wells in the shallow aquifer. In response to Mr. Jung's question as to the estimated impact of that decline in the shallow aquifer on individual wells, Mr. Yunker stated that the plan recommended that the siting of any new municipal wells require the study of potential impacts on nearby individual wells, including addressing mitigation of any impacts on those individual wells.
4. Ms. Russell noted the projected draw downs in the shallow aquifer in Walworth County and asked whether the plan recommended any new municipal wells in the shallow aquifer and further asked whether those wells were projected to have a significant impact on the shallow aquifer. Mr. Yunker responded that the

plan proposes that four water utilities in the Region place greater requirements on the use of the shallow aquifer by replacing existing deep aquifer wells with shallow aquifer wells. He noted that two of those four utilities were recommended in Walworth County, one being the City of Delavan and the other being the City of Elkhorn. Mr. Yunker noted that analyses were made by the Commission of the impact of the shift of these two communities from deep aquifer wells to shallow aquifer wells. He stated that the impact on the draw downs of the shallow aquifer was projected to be very modest.

[Secretary's Note: The projected maximum draw down of the shallow aquifer in Walworth County would increase from 29.5 feet to 33 feet under the preliminary recommended plan.]

5. Ms. Russell noted that a concern expressed in Walworth County about the preliminary plan is whether it proposes that individuals on individual wells be converted to municipal systems. Mr. Yunker responded that the plan identifies some potential locations throughout the Region which currently rely on individual wells, which based on their density and their proximity to existing municipal systems could be converted to municipal systems should problems arise with water quality or water quantity at those individual wells. This was done so that the plan could address the sustainability of groundwater supplied water in the Region should these areas convert from individual well to municipal well systems in the future. He emphasized that there is no recommendation in the plan for such areas to convert to municipal systems. He also noted that these areas represent a very small portion of the Region and a very small number of the residences and other development served by individual wells.

[Secretary's Note: The areas in Walworth County which were identified as having the potential to convert from individual wells to municipal wells should they develop a water quality or water quantity problem encompass less than five square miles of Walworth County. Thus, the vast majority of the residents of Walworth County currently served by private wells would be unaffected by this element of the study.]

6. In response to an inquiry by Chairman Schmidt, Mr. Yunker stated that the Planning and Research Committee will receive in a report all the comments made on the preliminary plan as well as the Commission staff proposed response to each of the issues raised in the comments.

At the end of that discussion, on a motion by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Mr. Stroik, and carried unanimously, Chapter 9, "Alternative Plan Comparative Evaluation and Selection of A Composite Plan for Further Consideration," of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 52 was approved for publication.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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(Planning and Research Committee)
February 10, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Mr. Stroik, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Deputy Secretary

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