

Minutes of the Tenth Meeting of the

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE**

DATE: June 2, 2009  
TIME: 4:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Independence*First*  
540 South 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Members Present

Adelene Greene..... Director, Division of Workforce Development,  
Chair Kenosha County  
Nancy Holmlund..... President, WISDOM Interfaith Coalition  
Vice Chair  
Joette Heckenbach .....Cope Services, Ozaukee County  
Lynnette McNeely ..... Attorney, Law Offices of Thomas J. Awen; NAACP  
Brian Peters ..... Housing Policy Advocate, Independence*First*  
Wally Rendon ..... Member Education/Outreach Representative, Racine Educator's  
Credit Union; former Racine Police Officer  
Yolanda Santos Adams ..... Director, League of United Latin American Citizens  
Theresa Schuerman..... Walworth County Bilingual Migrant Worker Outreach  
Willie Wade ..... Alderman, City of Milwaukee

Guests and Staff Present

Ryan Holifield..... UWM Geography Department  
Gary K. Korb ..... Regional Planning Educator, UW-Extension/SEWRPC  
Catherine Madison .....Policy Analyst, UWM Center for Economic Development  
Benjamin R. McKay .....Senior Planner, SEWRPC  
Karyn Rotker..... Attorney, ACLU of Wisconsin  
James Rowen .....Citizen  
Kenneth R. Yunker ..... Executive Director, SEWRPC

**ROLL CALL**

Chairperson Greene called the meeting of the Environmental Justice Task Force to order at 4:05 p.m., welcoming those in attendance. She thanked Mr. Peters and Independence*First* for the hospitality in making the meeting room available.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2009**

Ms. Greene noted that not enough Task Force members were present to constitute a quorum. Therefore, the minutes of the March 24, 2009, meeting could not be approved or changed; however, she noted that some Task Force members had indicated their intent to attend the meeting, but have not yet arrived. Ms. Greene stated that this agenda item should be re-visited later in the meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Greene asked if there were any comments on the agenda or other Task Force business. There were none. Ms. Greene stated that there would be an opportunity for additional public comment at the end of the meeting.

## **REGIONAL HOUSING PLAN REPORT ON PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH PROGRAM**

Mr. Yunker introduced Steve Adams, the new SEWRPC Public Involvement and Outreach Manager. Mr. Adams provided the Task Force with a brief description of his work history and requested Mr. McKay to provide an overview of the regional housing plan public informational meetings (PIM). Mr. McKay directed the Task Force's attention to a handout entitled Regional Housing Plan Public Informational Meetings Summary May 18 to May 20 (see Attachment 1). Mr. McKay reviewed the written comments and housing vision statements received at the three meetings held to date. All three meetings were in Milwaukee County.

Task Force members raised the following discussion points and comments:

1. Mr. Peters asked if any verbal comments were recorded. Mr. McKay responded that attendees were asked to fill out comment sheets to capture verbal comments made to staff.
2. Ms. Santos Adams stated that the low attendance at the United Community Center meeting concerned her. She stated that the United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS) office might be a good alternative site that would attract more attendance. She then asked if there will be additional series of regional housing plan PIMs. Mr. McKay responded that there will be at least two more series of meetings, one series after the data collection and analysis portion of the planning process and one after preliminary recommendations have been developed. Mr. Yunker stated that there is typically better attendance at public meetings later in the planning process when the public reacts to the findings of analyses and preliminary plan recommendations. Ms. Rotker suggested from the audience that non-traditional methods of public outreach could be used such as setting up displays in stores that experience heavy public traffic, such as a Lena's Supermarket.

Following the discussion of the regional housing plan PIMs, Mr. Adams presented a report to the Task Force of the proposed public involvement and outreach program (see Attachment 2).

Task Force members raised the following discussion points and comments:

1. Ms. Holmlund stated that the regional housing planning process is a golden opportunity to educate the public regarding the costs of urban sprawl. She stated that other regions with land use policies that promote compact urban development should be used as examples for Southeastern Wisconsin.
2. Ms. Heckenbach stated that the socio-economic impact analysis of the regional housing plan appears late in the process. She stated that the populations to be included in the socio-economic impact analysis should be identified early in the planning process and this should be reflected in the scope of work. Mr. Yunker stated that the populations affected by the socio-economic impact analysis will be identified early in the planning process and that the analysis will be of the

housing plan recommendations and how the recommendations impact those populations. Ms. Heckenbach stated that she wants to ensure the socio-economic impact analysis is included in the housing planning process and that other suggestions, such as those contained in Ms. Rotker's letter to SEWRPC regarding the housing plan, are included in the housing planning process. Mr. McKay stated that the fair housing section of the scope of work was revised based on Ms. Rotker's letter.

3. Mr. Rendon stated that UMOS holds several events at which SEWRPC could display information regarding various planning activities and he highlighted the Racine Fiesta Mexicana scheduled for August 7-9, 2009. Mr. Rendon asked if SEWRPC has any staff members that are bi-lingual who could cover events, and if SEWRPC produces bi-lingual materials. Mr. Adams responded that SEWRPC does produce materials, such as brochures, in languages other than English and that SEWRPC could explore partnering with organizations to communicate with the public at bi-lingual events.
4. Mr. Wade asked if the outreach contact list includes religious organizations. Mr. Adams responded that the list does include these organizations and listed several examples.
5. Mr. Wade stated that outreach efforts could also be directed toward the Milwaukee Public School District (MPS), where fall would be a good time to start activity. The Milwaukee Fire and Police Departments may also be worthwhile investigating for collaborations.
6. Ms. McNeely asked what topics will be the focus of the outreach efforts. Mr. Adams stated that the regional housing plan will be a focus of upcoming outreach efforts. He stated that another outreach focus will be a general statement of SEWRPC's purpose and the type of planning efforts SEWRPC is involved in, such as land use planning, transit and transportation planning, and environmental and water supply planning. Ms. McNeely asked if public input would be solicited as part of the public outreach efforts. Mr. Adams responded that public input will be solicited as part of the outreach efforts.
7. Ms. Santos Adams asked if there are specific public outreach efforts planned for the Racine and Kenosha areas. Mr. Adams stated that there are no specific efforts currently planned for Racine and Kenosha. Ms. Santos Adams suggested that SEWRPC may be able to partner with the IH 94 reconstruction project for public outreach activities in Racine and Kenosha, noting that the Urban League of Racine and Kenosha is a sub-contractor for public outreach for the IH 94 reconstruction project. She stated that the Urban League does literature drops regarding the IH 94 project and that SEWRPC may be able to piggy back with its outreach materials. Ms. Holmlund stated that Racine and Kenosha each have radio stations and cable access channels that SEWRPC could use as public outreach mediums.
8. Mr. Peters asked Ms. McNeely and Ms. Heckenbach why the socio-economic impact analysis is relevant in the beginning of the housing plan as well as the end. Ms. McNeely responded that the socio-economic impact analysis would be used in the beginning and end of the plan to compare the Region's current situation to the plan recommendations. Mr. Yunker stated that his interpretation of Ms. Heckenbach's request is to include the socio-economic impact analysis in the beginning of the planning process to identify populations in the Region adversely affected by the Region's current housing patterns as a base for the analyses conducted during the planning process and to analyze how the plan recommendations will impact the housing conditions for these populations. He added that such an approach should be workable, as dimensions of socio-

economic impact analysis are implicit throughout the intended planning process. Ms. Heckenbach stated that the socio-economic impact analysis presently appears to be one of the last steps in the current draft of the scope of work and it needs to be included early on to identify populations who are adversely impacted by the Region's current housing conditions to be effective. She also suggested that the consultant responsible for conducting the socio-economic impact analysis may need to be involved with the housing plan early in the planning process.

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2009**

Ms. Greene asked to return to agenda item number two, noting that enough Task Force members had arrived to constitute a quorum. Mr. Rendon made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2009, meeting. Ms. McNeely seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

#### **PRESENTATION BY TASK FORCE MEMBER ALDERMAN WADE ON THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE WATER TO THE CITY OF NEW BERLIN**

Mr. Wade provided a summary of the recent negotiations regarding the City of Milwaukee's agreement to provide water to the City of New Berlin. Mr. Wade noted that the City of New Berlin wanted to expand the service area, which required an amendment to an existing agreement. He stated that the expansion of the service area concerned the City of Milwaukee Common Council due to the potential loss of job opportunities from the City of Milwaukee to the City of New Berlin; however, the proposed expansion does not pose a threat of lost job opportunities in the City of Milwaukee because the area of Milwaukee water service expansion is already developed. Mr. Wade stated that the City of Milwaukee Common Council was also concerned about the fee for the water sale to New Berlin and the lack of low- and moderate-income housing and transit service in New Berlin. Mr. Wade stated that his position regarding these concerns is that there is an existing agreement with New Berlin. New Berlin has been a good partner in the past and met all of the obligations in the existing agreement, so the provisions of the existing agreement seem appropriate to be extended. He also stated that these issues should be addressed in future negotiations for water sale agreements with other communities that do not have a current agreement with the City of Milwaukee.

Task Force members raised the following discussion points and comments:

1. Ms. McNeely asked if the City of New Berlin has any water supply alternatives. Mr. Wade stated that New Berlin could also enter into an agreement with the City of Oak Creek. Mr. Yunker stated that this alternative would be more expensive because the City of Oak Creek does not have existing excess capacity. Mr. Yunker also stated that New Berlin could switch from using the deep aquifer to the shallow aquifer.
2. Ms. Madison indicated from the audience that the right choice appeared to have been made in the negotiations between the Cities of Milwaukee and New Berlin with regard to Public Service Commission requirements. Mr. Wade added that the City of Milwaukee will now be in a better position to negotiate service agreements with other communities due to the lessons learned in the New Berlin negotiation.
3. Mr. Yunker noted a negotiated \$1.5 million payment in this instance from New Berlin to Milwaukee and asked what kind of housing and transit expectations for New Berlin were explored during the negotiations. Mr. Wade responded that the main transit concern was related to service cuts by Waukesha County, which the City of New Berlin could not control. He also

stated that the City of New Berlin was already doing what they could with limited resources in regard to the provision of low-income housing.

4. Mr. Peters asked Mr. Wade what his opinion was regarding the expansion of Calhoun Road, which is on the border of the western edge of the water supply service area. Mr. Wade responded that the Calhoun Road expansion proposal happened after the water service agreement negotiations.
5. Ms. McNeely asked if water supply service can be terminated after the City of Milwaukee has entered into a service agreement. Mr. Wade stated that the service agreement is reviewed every five years, but the City Attorney would have to be consulted to answer this question. Ms. Madison added from the audience that water service from Milwaukee to New Berlin could not simply be suspended because, for example, fire suppression capability is a matter of public interest.

#### **UPDATE ON AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM – MILWAUKEE URBANIZED AREA FUNDING ALLOCATION AND PROJECT SELECTION**

Ms. Heckenbach asked if the Task Force will have input on the projects to receive funding. Mr. Yunker responded that the Advisory Committee on Transportation System Planning and Programming for the Milwaukee Urbanized Area has approved a procedure for funding allocation and project selection and he had intended to provide a report on that process. Ms. Heckenbach requested that the report be postponed to another Task Force meeting due to the limited amount of time at this meeting. Ms. Greene stated that the agenda item would be tabled until the next meeting.

#### **REPORT ON TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP ON ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Mr. Yunker stated that SEWRPC staff is sending agendas of all Commission advisory committee meetings to Task Force members for their information. He also stated that the Commission will consider the request for a Task Force member to be included on newly formed Commission advisory committees, and as non-voting members on existing advisory committees and other committees appointed by entities with whom the Commission is working. Ms. Rotker asked from the audience if new Task Force members would be appointed to replace members who have asked to be removed from the Task Force. Mr. Yunker stated that new members will be added and current Task Force members can be involved in the process. He noted that the two positions which may require replacement are a representative from Washington County and a representative of the Southeast Asian minority community. Ms. Heckenbach asked if information regarding new candidates would be shared with Task Force members. Mr. Yunker stated that the information would be distributed to Task Force members via the list serve.

#### **FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Greene thanked the Task Force for their active participation, and audience members for their patience. She then asked whether those in attendance wished to comment. The following comments were made:

1. Ms. Heckenbach asked to revisit Ms. Holmlund's comments regarding the integration of SEWRPC plans and her comments regarding urban sprawl. Ms. Heckenbach then asked Mr. Wade about the issue of Lake Michigan water supply to the City of Waukesha and the possibility

that it may increase urban sprawl. Mr. Wade responded that there are many uncertainties regarding water supply to the City of Waukesha, including questions regarding what infrastructure improvements would be necessary.

2. Ms. Holmlund stated that an effort needs to be undertaken to educate the public about urban sprawl and increase public awareness and support of regional planning. She stated that SEWRPC should undertake this effort before public opinion regarding issues such as transit and water supply are formed. Mr. Yunker acknowledged the need for public education because some of these issues, such as the transit issue, are complicated and therefore do not receive public support. Mr. Yunker noted the example of regional transit, which is necessary to, in part, address issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries such as access to employment. Mr. Yunker noted that the Governor's budget included a provision for a multi-county regional transit authority in Southeastern Wisconsin, but the proposal did not make it through the State Legislature's Joint Finance Committee.
3. Mr. Rowen stated that in light of the agreement to provide water to the City of New Berlin, the City of Milwaukee has released a request for proposals to undertake a study to determine the true value of City water to other communities. The City will then use the results of the study in future water service negotiations. He then asked Mr. Yunker if the Task Force could be updated on the SEWRPC request for qualifications (RFQ) for a socio-economic impact analysis of the preliminary regional water supply plan. Mr. Yunker stated that the RFQ was sent to a wide range of firms and organizations and was posted on the SEWRPC and Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association websites.
4. Ms. Holmlund stated that David Rusk has given a presentation regarding urban sprawl to the Wisconsin Council of Mayors. She stated that the Task Force should recognize the opportunity to relate a presentation by Mr. Rusk to the current regional water supply and housing planning efforts, which is a message that could also appear on cable television. Ms. Holmlund stated that she would contact Mr. Rusk regarding a presentation about urban sprawl.
5. Ms. Heckenbach stated that the Task Force should review the recommendations of the regional land use plan and how they relate to the regional water supply plan before the water supply plan is adopted. Mr. Yunker responded that the water supply plan is based on the regional land use plan and that the next meeting could include a discussion of how the regional land use plan relates to other regional plans prepared by SEWRPC.
6. Ms. Rotker stated that the socio-economic impact analysis of the regional water supply plan should include a section analyzing the impact of the water supply plan recommendations on the Region's population if the regional land use plan recommendations are not implemented.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Greene stated that the next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for July 28, 2009. She stated that the Independence *First* location seems to be convenient for most members. Mr. Yunker stated that this location will be used in the future as it is available given the earlier offer made by Mr. Peters. He also requested that future meetings be held on Thursdays instead of Tuesdays because of the conflicts created with local government meetings. Ms. Greene stated that future meetings will be scheduled for Thursdays starting in September. Ms. Greene thanked the Task Force and guests for their time and participation and declared the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

-7-

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin R. McKay  
Recording Secretary

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KRY/NMA/GKK/BRM  
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