

MINUTES
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
QUARTERLY MEETING

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

3:04 p.m.

Auditorium
Racine County Ives Grove Office Complex
14200 Washington Avenue (STH 20 and IH 94)
Sturtevant, WI 53177

Present:

Excused:

Commissioners:

David L. Stroik, Chairman
Gilbert B. Bakke
Kimberly L. Breunig
Thomas H. Buestrin
James T. Dwyer
Adelene Greene
Susan S. Greenfield
Richard A. Hansen
William E. Johnson
Robert W. Pitts
Daniel S. Schmidt
Gustav W. Wirth, Jr.

William R. Drew
Gregory L. Holden
John Rogers
Nancy Russell
Daniel Stoffel
Paul G. Vrakas
John F. Weishan, Jr.

Staff:

Kenneth R. Yunker	Executive Director
Elizabeth A. Larsen	Business Manager
Debra A. D'Amico	Executive Secretary

Guests:

Kurt W. Bauer	Executive Director Emeritus, SEWRPC
John M. Bennett	City Engineer, City of Franklin
Leroy Bley	Former Commissioner, Ozaukee County
Duane H. Bluemke	Former Commissioner, Waukesha County
Thomas J. Bunker	Former General Manager, City of Racine Waste and Wastewater Utility
Arnold L. Clement	Former Director of Planning and Development, Racine County
Harlan E. Clinkenbeard	Planner, City of Pewaukee and Former Assistant Director, SEWRPC
David B. Falstad	Former Commissioner, Racine County
Robert F. Hamilton	Former Commissioner, Waukesha County
Paul G. Hayes	Author, "MASTER PLANNERS: Fifty Years of Regional Planning in Southeastern Wisconsin: 1960-2010"
Gordon M. Kacala	Executive Director, Racine Economic Development Corporation

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David Kuemmel	Former Commissioner of Public Works, City of Milwaukee and Adjunct Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Marquette University
William L. McReynolds	County Executive, Racine County
George E. Melcher	Director, Kenosha County Planning Development

ROLL CALL

Chairman Stroik called the 232nd meeting of the Commission to order at 3:04 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared present. Chairman Stroik indicated for the record that Commissioners Drew, Holden, Rogers, Russell, Stoffel, Vrakas, and Weishan had asked to be excused.

Mr. Stroik noted that in attendance were a number of former Commissioners and local government staff that the Commission has worked with over the years, and asked that they introduce themselves.

WELCOMING REMARKS BY RACINE COUNTY EXECUTIVE WILLIAM McREYNOLDS
Chairman Stroik introduced Racine County Executive William McReynolds to the Commission.

County Executive McReynolds welcomed the Commissioners and guests to Racine County and expressed his appreciation to the Commission. He stated that the partnership between the Commission and the Counties serves the region well. He noted that Racine County is financially stable and industrial properties are becoming scarce as new businesses are looking to locate in the County. He also stated that as the County grows and progresses into the future, the partnership between Racine County and the Commission will continue to be very important.

County Executive McReynolds then stated that in 1998 Racine County began work on a dispatch center that would centralize emergency communications for the communities in the County. He noted that the jointly operated dispatch center has proven to be a good model for governmental cooperation and consolidation, and announced that immediately following the conclusion of the Commission meeting, he would conduct a tour of the Racine County Joint Dispatch Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2010 MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the Quarterly Full Commission Meeting of December 1, 2010, were approved as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairman Stroik asked Mr. Dwyer to present the Treasurer's Report. He noted that a copy of the Treasurer's Report had been provided to all Commissioners for review prior to the meeting. In

commenting on the report, he called attention to the following items:

1. Based upon disbursements through January 30, 2011, it is projected that total disbursements for the year will approximate nearly \$7.2 million. Revenues are projected at about \$8.1 million, exclusive of interest income and miscellaneous revenues.
2. The total amount of funds held by the Commission in the various operating, liability, and reserve accounts approximates \$3.36 million. The various accounts are identified on the second page of the report.

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3. As of January 30, 2011, the Commission had investments and cash on hand of approximately \$4.77 million. About \$3.9 million are invested in the State of Wisconsin Local Government Pooled Investment Fund. As of January 30, 2011, that fund was yielding 0.19 percent interest. Other funds are held in savings, checking, and money market accounts at several banks.

There being no further questions or discussion, on a motion by Mr. Bakke, seconded by Mr. Pitts, and carried unanimously, the Treasurer's Report for the period ending January 30, 2011, was approved (copy of the Treasurer's Report attached to Official Minutes).

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Research Committee

Planning and Research Committee Chairman Schmidt noted that the Committee had not met since the Commission Quarterly Meeting. He noted that the Committee had a heavy workload throughout 2010 with the review of the final sections of the regional water supply plan and the second edition of the regional natural areas plan.

There being no questions or discussion, on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Ms. Breunig, and carried unanimously, the Planning and Research Committee report was approved.

Administrative Committee

Chair Greene stated that the Administrative Committee had met two times since the last Commission Quarterly meeting.

She noted that on January 20, 2011, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved the Commission disbursements for financial reporting periods: Year 2010 Nos. 24, 25, 26, and Year 2011, No. 1, extending over the period November 8, 2010, to January 2, 2011.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending January 2, 2011.

On February 17, 2011, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and approved the Commission disbursements for financial reporting periods: Year 2011 Nos. 2 and 3, extending over the period January 3 to January 30, 2011.
2. Reviewed the Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for the financial reporting period ending January 30, 2011.

There being no questions or discussion, on a motion by Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Ms. Greenfield, and carried unanimously, the Administrative Committee report was approved.

Executive Committee

Chairman Stroik noted that the Executive Committee had met two times since the Commission Quarterly Meeting.

He stated that on January 20, 2011, the Committee took the following actions:

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1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meeting that day.
2. Reviewed and approved thirteen contracts for planning work. The details of these contracts are set forth in a table attached to this report.
3. Received a report outlining the schedule for projects to be completed throughout 2011 which include several key planning efforts being undertaken by the Commission.
4. Approved one amendment to the 2009-2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This amendment to the 2009-2012 TIP was necessary to advance a project for the City of Milwaukee funded with Federal Highway Administration Safe Routes to School funds.

On February 17, 2011, the Committee took the following actions:

1. Received and approved a report from the Administrative Committee relative to its meeting that day.
2. Reviewed and approved five contracts for planning work. The details of these contracts are set forth in a table attached to this report.
3. Received a report outlining the schedule for projects to be completed throughout 2011 which include several key planning efforts being undertaken by the Commission. This key planning efforts status report is attached to this report.
4. Reviewed and approved adoption of the new 2011-2014 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a Federally required listing of all arterial street and highway, public transit, and other transportation improvement projects proposed by State and local governments to receive Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration funding and to be implemented over the next four years in the seven-county Southeastern Wisconsin Region.

There being no questions or discussion, on a motion by Ms. Greene, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the Executive Committee report was approved.

PRESENTATION BY PAUL G. HAYES, AUTHOR, OF MASTER PLANNERS: *FIFTY YEARS OF REGIONAL PLANNING IN SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN: 1960-2010*

Chairman Stroik introduced Mr. Paul G. Hayes, the author of a book presenting the history of the first fifty years of the Commission.

Mr. Hayes began by noting that his first assignment in the early 1960s as a newly hired reporter for the "Milwaukee Journal," was to cover the work of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. He stated that over the next 30 years he continued his career at the "Milwaukee Journal" reporting on the Commission and its work for many years and serving as the newspaper's science, environment, and energy reporter. He then talked about being approached by then Chairman Buestrin, Dr. Bauer, and Mr. Evenson to write a book commemorating the Commission's 50 year anniversary. Mr. Hayes expressed his hopes that the book presents an honest account of a very special time in the history of the seven county Region, and the extraordinary agency which continues to offer its expertise in addressing natural resources, land use, and infrastructure in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region.

Mr. Hayes then read several excerpts of his book highlighting a number of the major accomplishments of the Commission. He noted the Commission's pioneering efforts in assembling the data needed for sound planning, including the completion of detailed inventories of the regional land use pattern; natural

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resource base; public infrastructure of streets and highways, transit facilities, water supply, sanitary sewerage and stormwater management facilities; and travel habits and patterns. He also noted the Commission's pioneering application of mathematical simulation modeling and systems engineering to urban problems. And, he described a number of the Commission's regional planning efforts noting that many initial and subsequent regional plan recommendations have been controversial, but are now generally accepted, and many have been substantially implemented. Among those he discussed were the identification and preservation of the Region's environmental corridors which encompass the Region's best remaining natural resources; the acquisition and development of 14 major State and County park sites located throughout the Region; the mapping of the Region's floodplains to prohibit development in flood prone areas; water quality management planning which resulted in the abandonment of 20 public and 35 private sewage treatment plants and the consideration of 10 new consolidated plants; and the preservation, re-establishing, and improvement of public transit systems throughout the Region.

In closing, Mr. Hayes expressed his appreciation to the Commission for allowing him to be an observer and participant in documenting the organization's history.

During Mr. Hayes' presentation, the following questions and comments were made and addressed.

1. In response to an inquiry from Chairman Stroik, Mr. Hayes stated that the first 50 years of the Commission was a most unusual time of prosperity after World War II with rapid growth; thus the Region was in need of sound advisory planning. He then stated that the need continues today for sound planning in the Region, but for a very different economy.
2. Mr. Yunker noted that what has guided the Commission in the past should continue to serve the Commission and the Region well in the future. This includes continuing to maintain a sound regional database, and developing regional plans based on careful analysis of existing and forecast probable future regional conditions, and extensive and objective consideration and evaluation of alternative courses of action for the Region. He noted that in the future, as in the past, some regional plan recommendations which may best serve the Region may not be immediately embraced, but in the long run will be implemented.
3. Mr. Pitts and Mr. Hansen thanked Mr. Hayes for his research and work in writing a very informative history of the Commission.
4. Mr. Buestrin called attention to excellent work of the Marquette University Press in publishing the book.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Yunker reported that there was no correspondence to be brought to the attention of the Commission, and made an announcement concerning the initiation of the Origin and Destination Travel Survey which will begin in April. He stated that the travel survey has historically been conducted every ten years, and that a press release regarding this project will be published within the next two weeks.

CONFIRMATION OF DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF MARCH QUARTERLY MEETING

Chairman Stroik indicated that the next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2011, in Washington County.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, on a motion by Mr. Wirth, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker
Deputy Secretary

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Attachments